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SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 10, 1906

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The seventy-sixth annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, April 6, 1906, at 10 a. m. A full attendance of officers and members is requested.

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

DOWN WITH MOB LAW!

The mobocratic spirit exhibited by some of the labor organizations in reference to the prosecutions in Idaho of persons suspected of the murder of Governor Steunenberg, is startling to all supporters of law and order. The threats that have been uttered by leading but excited orators and organizers are subversive of the public welfare, and their calls for sympathy with criminals are out of all reason and respect.

The dispatches of today on these uprisings are ominous, and the measures they expose are menacing to the peace of the country. Labor unions that desire the tolerance which should be extended to all lawful societies, should be very slow to fall in with the desperate and violent suggestions of inflammatory agitators.

The notion that the Governors of Idaho and Colorado want to hang innocent men, is the very height of absurdity. Everything that will be done in the pursuit of the assassins who have been engaged in outrages that ought to receive just retribution, will be conducted according to law, and the accused will have the benefit of every facility for their defense that can be rationally desired. But there must be no mob violence or demands upon courts, or lawyers, or officials of any status to overawe them or hinder the course of justice. If necessary, the entire powers of the States affected, and even of the nation, both civil and military, must be brought into requisition to quell mobocracy and protect public officials in the performance of public duty.

We utter a warning to no unfriendly spirit to the labor organizations in this State and throughout the land, not to be found in unity with any lawless proceedings, lest their course shall terminate in the destruction of their associations as well as the loss of life and property. Free speech must be preserved, but not to the extent of threats against law and order, or to deter the enforcement of proceedings to investigate murder and combinations which are formed for the slaughter of men for doing their duty. A fair trial for all persons charged with crime, but no defeat of justice by mobocratic uprisings!

A DANGEROUS HERESY.

The Congressional Record of the proceedings of Congress on February 13, gives a full report of the speech of Senator Perkins of California, when presenting a petition signed by several thousand women of that State for the expulsion of Senator Reed Smoot. We copy the remarks of the gentleman in another part of this issue of the Deseret News. The dispatches from Washington of that date gave but a meager account of the Senator's address, but the gist of it was that while recognizing the right of petition, he also held it to be his duty to be governed by the Constitution of the United States as to the right of a Senator to a seat in the body to which he was duly elected. Senator Patterson of Colorado also presented a similar petition and took a similar position in relation to it.

Some of the California papers have harshly criticized Senator Perkins for that which was most certainly his sworn duty. Of course those criticisms were mingled with the usual untruthful attacks and insinuations against the "Mormon" Church, of which Senator Smoot is a distinguished member, and yet they entirely disclaim any attack upon his religion.

The Los Angeles Times made a bitter assault upon Senator Perkins, who wrote in complaint of the injustice done him, and to make his case clear sent to the Times the full report of his speech in the Senate that was the occasion of the abuse of the Times. After reading that report, the Times editorially comes back at the Senator in a long article, reiterating its former criticisms and giving this explanation:

"What we found fault with in the previous article was the indefiniteness as to the position occupied by Senator Perkins, the fact that whatever leaning there was in the address before the Senate was distinctly a leaning in favor of the Utah Senator retaining his seat, rather than any opposition to that course," and that appears to be regarded by the Los Angeles paper as a terrible if not an unpardonable offense. The Times does not quote anything from the address that justifies its supposition, but even

if there was such a "leaning" in the direction indicated, what of it?

Does the Times mean to say that Senator Perkins was under obligation to view the question of the constitutional rights of a Senator to a seat in the Senate, as something to be ignored, because a number of prominent ladies, at the instance of some religious preachers, petitioned for his expulsion? Which does the Times regard as the greater authority, the request of no matter how many thousands of women, or the obligations and rules of the Supreme law of the land? That is the only real point at issue between the editor and the Senator.

But the Times, in order to give some excuse for berating Senator Perkins in standing by his duty under the Constitution, in preference to submission to the pleading of the petitioners, assumes that the "claimant from Utah" has been guilty of taking what it describes as "the well known Mormon oath of disloyalty to the United States," and goes on to assert that it is reasonable "to be presumed that he has been in the past, if not in the immediate present, a violator in spirit at least, if not in letter, of the requirements of the Edmunds law."

That is a very poor and shifty attempt at justification, and really amounts to so much nonsense. The Edmunds law defines certain offenses and provides penalties for those who are guilty of them in a Territory. They are called "polygamy" and "unlawful cohabitation." If a person has never practiced either of those offenses, how can he be a violator of that law? The testimony in favor of Senator Smoot on those points is conclusive and uncontradicted. He has been cleared from every suspicion in those regards, and therefore the insinuations of the Times are puerile and unjustifiable. What is the "spirit" of the Edmunds law? If it is not expressed in the letter? But the editor goes on to say:

"The Times is very positive on this point, that the professors of the Mormon religion must clear their skirts of the well-established charge of lying against them of disloyalty to the government of the United States, and of violation of the marriage laws of the country. The whole system of Mormonism must clear itself of these grave faults before the people of the United States will become reconciled to a toleration of its presence in this country. This charge of disloyalty and of violation of the laws governing the marriage relation lies against Mormons as a body, universal and individual."

The Times is very "positive," no doubt, but it would make a very much better case if, instead of making "positive" accusations, it would give some proof of what it calls a "well established charge." We dispute the positive statement of the Times, and also its notion that "the professors of the Mormon Church must clear their skirts" of a charge that has not been substantiated by proof. It rests with the protestants against Senator Smoot, who are more properly designated as "prosecutors" of the "Mormon" Church, to give proof of their wild and baseless assertions.

This "charge of disloyalty," which the Times simply echoes like a parrot, has not been established by a particle of proof. It is easy to get up a cry against an unpopular religion, and to accuse its devotees of anything that its opponents choose to invent. Why must the "Mormons clear their skirts" of the false accusations of their foes, instead of the accusers being required to substantiate what they allege?

If the Times has followed carefully the testimony before the committee that has the case in hand, it must have discovered the fact that there has been no evidence of any "oath" taken by the "Mormons" of any kind whatever. And further, that they have not been proven to have entered into any obligation, promise, or agreement of "disloyalty" to the government of the United States. There is no such covenant or obligation expressed or implied in the system commonly called "Mormonism," or taken by any of its adherents. Nor can it be shown that they have failed at any time when required, to respond to their country's call in peace or war. On the contrary, they have demonstrated by their acts their love of country and their devotion to its flag. The Times closes its illogical and unsubstantiated assault upon Senator Perkins with the following paragraph:

"As to Senator Smoot, his is a case wherein, under the peculiar circumstances, his innocence is not necessarily to be presumed, but rather to be proved before he is entitled to a permanent seat in the United States Senate."

Does the Los Angeles Times mean to advocate that kind of a doctrine? Is it really in earnest in setting forth such a proposition? Or is it so biased, prejudiced and inflamed against the Church to which Senator Smoot belongs, that it takes for granted every idle tale invented and set afloat by sectarian divines and seceders from the "Mormon" faith, which belies the course and conduct of the people who laid the foundations of the State of Utah and helped to start the great State of California?

Also that it will advocate the reversal of a thoroughly established and universally respected rule of law and principle of justice, and maintain that an accused person must prove his innocence, instead of requiring his detractors to prove their accusations?

That is the tenor and spirit of the entire attempt at argument of the Los Angeles Times, a paper that ought to stand on higher ground, among a people so intelligent, liberal and progressive as those who dwell in the beautiful City of the Angels.

THE NEW STATEHOOD BILL.

The complications over the statehood bill which has been disposed of by the United States Senate, may be a trifle confusing to the ordinary reader. The proposition was to unite Oklahoma and Indian Territory and make them one State, and to do the same with Arizona and New Mexico. When the bill reached the Senate, the first part of the measure was accepted, and the new State will be admitted into the Union. As to the other part there were radical differences.

An amendment was presented by

Senator Foraker providing that the people of Arizona and New Mexico should be permitted to vote separately on the proposition for joint statehood. This was adopted by a vote of 42 to 39. Then Senator Dubois offered an amendment incorporating in the Constitution of the joint State the Idaho test-oath, designed to exclude all "Mormons" from voting or holding office. This was agreed to. But Senator Burrows presented another amendment excluding Arizona and New Mexico from the bill, and leaving only joint statehood for Oklahoma and Indian Territory. This failed by a vote of 35 to 36. All that was done in committee of the whole. But when the matter was reported to the Senate, Mr. Burrows renewed his proposition to strike out Arizona and New Mexico from the bill, and his amendment received a vote of 37 ayes to 35 nays, and so joint statehood for those two Territories was thrown out. The Dubois test-oath proposal included.

In committee of the whole, Senator Sutherland voted for and Senator Smoot against the Foraker amendment. But in the open Senate both voted against the Burrows amendment. We mention this because of an attempt on the part of a local contemporary to place one of those Senators in a false light in relation to this matter. The facts are as we have stated, and they show that Senator Smoot was desirous of statehood for Arizona and New Mexico, even if one State for the twain was all that could be obtained. And both the Utah Senators voted against the elimination of those Territories from the statehood bill.

It is understood that the President was strongly in favor of joint statehood, thinking with many other people that the admission of new States with sparse population, giving them equal representation in the Senate with the great States of the Union was not wise or advisable. There are strong differences of opinion on that point, however, and there will be, no doubt, until there are no Territories left, but all commonwealths under the flag will be States in the Federal Union.

THE FRENCH SITUATION.

The French President seems to encounter more difficulties than he had anticipated in finding a suitable person willing to take the responsibility of the French premiership at the present time. One reason for this is, probably, a very wide-spread impression that Germany is looking for trouble with France, and is making the Moroccan question an excuse for the quarrel. That is, perhaps, also the secret reason why Rouvier jumped down from his laurels with so much agility. No one can accept with a light heart the responsibility for a conflict that might involve the entire Europe.

It would be especially risky at this time for the French government to assume a defiant attitude, because the people are torn by dissensions on account of the ecclesiastical situation. It is clear that the dissatisfaction has penetrated to the deeper strata of the French people, from whom the government derives its power. How can a foreign foe be met by a disunited people? That is the grave question. What can the government do, until the nation is again united, and the wounds inflicted by persecutors are healed? At present, France is weak, notwithstanding its preparations for war. It is weak because disunited.

Germany scored a great diplomatic triumph when M. Delcasse was forced to resign about half a year ago. His policy was firm, and even aggressive. Germany has obtained a new advantage in the present situation brought about by the ruthless raids upon French churches and the overthrow of the ministry. What use the German diplomats will make of this advantage, remains to be seen. We can hardly believe, though, that Germany is spilling for another fray. Her ambition, no doubt, is to induce Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, and, perhaps Austria, to join the German Bund, and thus make Germany the greatest of the world-powers. But we believe the attempt will be made rather by peaceful means than by wars. The German Emperor has, so far, always been for peace, notwithstanding his, at times, startling utterances.

TURMOIL IN CHINA.

The reports from China are conflicting. They are, briefly stated, to the effect that a better understanding is noticed between the foreigners and natives in some places, while, at the same time, the anti-foreign sentiment is spreading all over the country. There seems to be discrepancy somewhere.

The Pekin correspondent of the London Standard states positively that the much-talked-of anti-foreign uprising has actually commenced, although the government is denying that any disorders exist. The province of Hunan is especially characterized as a hotbed of rebellion. There, Yuan Shi Kai, the imperial commander of the Chinese forces, has stationed a detachment of artillery on the banks of the Yuen river, near Chinchow. The apology for these warlike preparations is that the country thereabouts is infested with robbers, but the fact is, the correspondent says, that conditions in Hunan are well nigh beyond control of the government. Yuan's forces guard the northern approach of Pekin, along which a foreign army might come, while he is also making preparations to guard the southern entrance to the capital.

We are further told that "on every hand, but especially in the immediate precincts of the Forbidden City, the most active military preparations are going on. A stranger, looking at the bodies of marching troops, the long artillery trains and the dashing forces of cavalry would surely think he were in the midst of active preparations for war, and that is just what every foreigner here believes, despite the assertions of the government officials that those movements are of no significance."

We confess inability to see in these military movements any evidence of an anti-foreign sentiment. That it exists, has been proved by the massacres of missionaries and boycott of foreign merchandise. But the military move-

ments around Pekin are only to be expected. Have we not threatened to "invade" China? Have not foreigners in China attempted to their governments for military protection? Why should not China, then, mobilize her troops and keep them in readiness for a possible invasion? That should not cause adverse comment.

The real situation in China is probably very imperfectly understood outside the borders of the empire. It has been stated that the agitation is even for the purpose of deposing the reigning dynasty. Only the events that are about to occur can make the situation perfectly clear.

BATTLE WITH MOROS.

The battle with Moros on the island of Jolo, as reported in the dispatches, will, of course, be used by some as an argument in favor of the selling out of the entire archipelago. It will be said that the Filipinos do not want the Americans on the islands, and that it is un-American to force ourselves upon them.

The trouble with this argument is, however, that it ignores the certain results that would follow such a policy. Even supposing it to be true that the Filipinos object to American government, how would our retreat from the islands better the conditions? Suppose we were to sell out to Japan; the Japanese would have to force themselves and their government upon the people, as they had to do in the island of Formosa. Would that be preferable? It is absolutely certain that we would not obtain the consent of the Filipinos to sell them to Japan. And, if we were simply to cast them adrift, how long would it take for some other power to force itself upon them? And that would certainly not be a gain.

It is not true, however, that the majority of the civilized Filipinos are against the now existing government. The wild, lawless element is against every form of government, and it is a blessing that this is stamped out. Spain failed to pursue the outlaws to their strongholds, and to scatter them. The United States representatives have done their duty in this regard. Hence, the stories of "battles" that have been fought, from time to time. But each such "battle" is a triumph for civilization and law. Each victory over the terrorists brings the era of peace and tranquility nearer.

From every authentic report from the Philippines it is evident that the Americans there are doing a splendid work by the schools and the various government institutions established there. The results obtained are declared to be satisfactory. So far, the troubles encountered in the Philippines have not been of a more serious nature than those that marked the march of civilization throughout the western states of this country.

Arizona prefers a state of single blessedness.

The stock market is getting as frisky as a spring lamb.

Extending of sympathy is often nothing but a stretching of sympathy.

Train a child up in the way he shouldn't go, and when he gets old he isn't very apt to depart from it.

It is to be expected, of course, that the elevator combine will rise up in its might and fight the government suit.

Had there been a carcass at Albany more insurance then could not have gathered there than have assembled.

If the wife of King Victor Emmanuel's master of the horse had stuck to horses she never would have been killed in an automobile accident.

M. Fallieres thus far has not been able to construct a cabinet. Those whom he has approached seem to be sticks instead of the right kind of timber.

The troops in Jolo have just "pacified" some four hundred hostile Moros. There is every assurance that those subjected to the treatment will remain "pacified."

When the artillery began to play upon them from the top of the crater, the Moros must have thought that the crater had suddenly become an active volcano.

General Juan Isidro Jimenez, former president of Santo Domingo, says that he has done with Dominican politics for all time. This is about the best thing he has ever done.

A musical entertainment worthy of patronage is offered by home talent, to appear in Barratt Hall the first evening of next week in an operetta. Among those who will appear are Mrs. Lizzie Thomas Edward and Miss Judith Anderson, Mr. Thos. Ashworth, and Mr. John Robinson, all celebrated singers. Prof. and Master Clive will have charge of the instrumental part of the program.

In Texas, it is said, they are about to try the experiment of having a time of probation before marriage. It was started by a farmer, who advertised for a wife, but specified that the applicant should serve as his housekeeper for a certain length of time, in order that he should have a chance to prove her ability and temper. It should not be forgotten, though, that the real test never comes till after the marriage.

The convulsions of nature that have taken place in various parts of the earth are a reminder of the fact, that the human family is very much dependent on Providence for its existence on this globe. A very slight increase in the velocity of the wind; a slight change of temperature, and life would be impossible. How small is man, confronted with these natural forces, and yet it is his destiny to become their master!

And just as the President had sent a special message to Congress urging heavy and extensive coast defenses for the country, comes the British sec-

retary for war, Mr. Haldane, and says England's navy is capable of defending the country from invasion, and further says that some three hundred guns mounted for defense purposes at various points along the coast are to be swept away. Could anything be more provoking?

ON RELIGIOUS TOPICS.

Certainly, in our own little sphere it is not the most active people to whom we owe the most. Among the common people whom we know it is not necessarily those who are the basest, not those who, meteor like, are over on the rush after some visible change and work. It is the lives like the stars, which simply pour down to us the calm light of their bright and faithful being, up to which we look and out of which we gather the deepest calm and courage.—Phillips Brooks.

We have a great deal more kindness than is ever spoken. In spite of all the selfishness that chills the world like east winds, the whole human family is bathed with an element of love like a fine ether. How many persons we meet in houses, whom we care to leave to, whom yet we honor, and who honor us? How many we see in the street, or sit with in church, whom, though silently, we warmly rejoice to be with! Read the language of these wandering eye-beams. The heart knoweth.—Emerson.

True faith is full of ingenuity and hearty simplicity, free from suspicion, wise and confident, trusting upon generals, without watching and prying into unnecessary incidents, and particulars. No man carries his bed into his field to watch how his corn grows, but believes upon the general order of Providence and nature; and at harvest finds himself not deceived.—Jeremy Taylor.

Thou wakest morning by morning with the love of God oversteaming thee. Give thyself for the day to His love; to speak words or to leave them unspoken, to do acts or to leave them undone, as thou thinkest in thy truest heart that the God who loves thee wills for thee.—Dr. Pusey.

JUST FOR FUN.

A Supposition.

"Suppose," said the wise orator—"though 'tis a thought stupendous—" "Suppose a baby 1 year old with arms of the tremendous
 "Length of ninety-three odd million miles.
 "Should, in a freak of fun,
 "Reach up and touch the sun,
 "That child would be
 "23.
 "Years old.
 "Before it learned.
 "Its hand was burned."—Liverpool Post.

A Consumer.

A few years ago a French-Canadian named Lacombe who had been before the police court of Waterville, Me., at least a dozen times for drunkenness, was arrested on the charge of "pocket peddling" liquor about the circus grounds one day when one of the big shows was exhibiting in that town. Later in the day Lacombe was arraigned before the judge whom he had faced so many times.

"Mr. Lacombe," said Judge Shaw, "stand up. You are charged with selling one pint of whisky this day to one —. What say you, are you guilty or not guilty?"

"Not guilty. Look here, judge, you ought to know by this time that I am a consumer, not a dealer."—Boston Herald.

"Sketches is a wonderful artist, isn't he?"

"What's the matter now?"
 "In a magazine story he illustrated this line: 'For half an hour she sat silent and motionless waiting.' The silent and motionless waiting? The picture is so realistic that if you watch it for half an hour it neither speaks nor moves. Wonderful! Simply wonderful!"—Kansas City Times.

Widow—If John had only made a will there wouldn't be all this difficulty about the property.
 Visitor—Do the lawyers bother you?
 Widow—Bother me? They almost worry me to death. I declare, I sometimes almost wish that John hadn't died.—London Tit-Bits.

"I want you to understand," observed the insurance president, "that my money was hardly earned."
 "Hardly," echoed the listeners.

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