

DESERET EVENING NEWS

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.
(Sunday Excepted)
Corner of South Temple and East Temple
Streets, Salt Lake City, Utah.

HORACE G. WHITNEY, Business Manager

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES
(In Advance)
One Year \$3.00
Six Months \$1.75
Three Months \$1.00
One Month .50
Semi-Weekly, Per Year \$2.00

Correspondence and other reading matter for publication should be addressed to the EDITOR.
Address all business communications and all remittances to
THE DESERET NEWS,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Entered at the Postoffice of Salt Lake City as second class matter according to Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

SALT LAKE CITY, - SEPT. 25, 1907.

CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Seventy-eighth semi-annual general conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will assemble in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Friday, Oct. 4, 1907, at 10 a. m. A full attendance of the officers and members of the Church is hereby requested.

On account of the general Conference being held on the first Sunday of October, it is suggested that the last Sunday in September be observed as fast day in the Salt Lake, Edinburg, Liberty, Pioneer, Jordan, and Granite stakes.

JOSEPH E. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHONY H. LUND,

First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

MODERNISM.

The recent encyclical on "modernism" is perhaps one of the most remarkable documents that has been issued from the Vatican in many years. It directs that not only theology, but also philosophy, be taught in church schools in accordance with Catholic ideas. Both the clergy and lay members are prohibited from reading so-called modernist literature, and the rules of censorship are to be strictly enforced.

We presume this remarkable document is particularly aimed at the modern conclusions of the critics who believe they have discovered serious discrepancies between Bible statements and the facts brought to light by scientists, and who propose, as a way out of the dilemma, to view the Bible as a human production of no more credibility, and no less, than any of the books regarded as sacred by various branches of the human family. The liberal element of our day may regard this declaration of Rome as a step backward, but how can that church take any other position without imperiling its own existence? An inflexible church cannot stand on a fallible Bible. If the church, after centuries of struggle, is to retreat and give the field to the adversary, what becomes of the doctrine: "Extra ecclesiam nulla salus"? The position of the Pope in this matter seems to us to be the only logical, and therefore the only possible one.

But, notwithstanding this, it is a serious mistake to close the doors to honest criticism. It was Luther—if we may mention his name in this connection—who said that, "Tyrants, sectaries, seducers, and heretics do nothing else than drive us into the Bible, to make us read more diligently therein, and with more fervency to sharpen our prayers." Milton, in his Arcopagitica, says among other things:

"I cannot praise a fugitive and cloistered virtue, unexercised and unbreathed, that never sallies out and sees her adversary, but slinks out of the race, where that immortal gale is to be run for, not without dust and heat. Assuredly we bring not innocence into the world, we bring impurity; much rather that which purifies us is trial, and trial is by what is contrary. That virtue therefore which is but a youngling in the contemplation of evil, and knows not the utmost that vice promises to her followers, and rejects it, is but a blank virtue, not a pure. . . . Since therefore the knowledge and survey of vice is in this world as necessary to the cultivating of human virtue, and the scanning of error to the confirmation of truth, how can we more safely, and with less danger, scout into the regions of sin and falsity than by reading all manner of treatises and hearing all manner of reason? And this is the benefit which may be had of books promiscuously read."

If there is any truth in this reasoning, and we see no way of refuting it, it is folly to try to stifle honest criticism.

We do not believe there is any discrepancy between the Bible and the sciences. Our understanding of many Bible passages may be faulty and in conflict with what scientists from other authentic sources have ascertained as true. Or, facts may be proclaimed in the name of sciences, which have not been established as facts. Or, more common still, scientists may draw wrong conclusions from the facts that have been established, and these conclusions may be at variance with statements of the Scriptures. When allowance is made for such sources of error and discrepancies, there will be very little reason for the supposition that there is any quarrel between the Bible and the sciences. There may be a struggle between dogma and science, but not between the Bible and the sciences. So, again we may say with Milton: "Though all the winds of doctrine were let loose to play upon the earth, so truth be in the field, we do injuriously by licensing and prohibiting to misdoubt her strength. Let her and falsehood grapple; who ever knew truth put to the worse in a free and open encounter?"

A BAD HABIT.

According to a New York paper, Mr. Harriman has stated he would as soon employ an inmate of a lunatic asylum as a man addicted to cigarettes. There

is a growing disposition among all employers of labor—particularly where that labor involves responsibilities bearing on the care of human life, to refuse employment of men addicted to cigarette smoking. These "cotton mills" unbalance the nerves, make character indecisive, dull the understanding, impair the digestive and respiratory functions, and in general unfit the smoker for the serious duties of his life. To correctly and reliably perform the duties of railroad, a clear head, steady nerves, and quick and reliable judgment are necessary. Imagine a cigarette fiend on the right side of an engine cab, with his vision more or less blurred, an unsteady hand on the throttle, and a sluggish acting brain. How safe would a train be in such hands? How would train orders be interpreted, and with what accuracy? Mr. Harriman understands this very clearly, and as his wishes are ascertained on the lines over which he has control, superintendents will make short shift of employees found given to the cigarette habit.

This policy is following on the heels of the adoption and enforcement on so many lines over the country, of strict rules against drinking or frequenting saloons. Railroad managers in general now permanently support the policy, so that a drinking man can not find work on railroads if his habits are known, and if he indulges, it is not long before the habit is found out.

THE WATER TAXES.

The water rates, it is said, will yield about \$50,000 above the cost of the maintenance of the water system this year. Part of this sum, we presume, is necessary for the payment of the interest and the reduction of the principal on the water bonds. To that portion of this surplus which is devoted to this purpose, there can be no objection.

But there are strong reasons why the water rates should not be so high as to yield a large surplus above the cost of the maintenance and plant of the water system itself. Some of these reasons may be, firstly, the surplus induces extravagance. Certainly the hard of "patriots" who now boast that if they are returned to office they will make this money fly, should not be entrusted with its expenditure. Secondly, it is the people rather than the municipality who own the water. The people appropriated and used it long before they authorized their servants in the city council to put it into pipes and distribute it to them. It is public rather than municipal ownership that describes our fortunate status in Salt Lake City. For the people have never surrendered their ownership of the canyon streams to the city. Only by extortion under the cover of a sort of legalized but proper taxation, can the citizens be made to pay a large profit on the water over and above the actual cost of plant and maintenance.

We know, of course, how delightful it is to a city council of the present calibre, to have in the coffers of the city treasury large sums of money on hand with which to tear up and lay down street surfaces. But the people prefer to get the water at the cost of the water and the street paving at the cost of that improvement, each several item being kept distinct from the others as to its cost and payment.

The system practiced by the present administration of juggling with the accounts, of transferring moneys from one account to another in order to hide the deficits, and of plundering the taxpayers on one account in order to do them a supposed favor by spending their moneys in other ways, which the people have not authorized and do not understand—all this, we say, is prima facie evidence of incompetent, not to say dishonest government.

The favorites of the City council are reveling in the people's money just now. How much of it the people will endure is the question.

CHINESE SCHOOLS.

A story is told in Washington to the effect that the Chinese government is seriously considering a proposition to establish Chinese schools in this country. The Chinese minister of education, it is said, has sent a report to the throne, which has been adopted and an edict published as a result in Peking papers to the effect that Chang Ching Kuay, a high official, is to go to America and attend to the opening of Chinese schools there.

This is not for the benefit of the benighted children of American parents, but for Chinese children here. It is pointed out that the Chinese are not wanted in the American schools, and the utility of Chinese schools is therefore apparent. Details as to methods of instruction, method of obtaining teachers, and control to be exercised over pupils, have not yet been decided upon.

We presume the Chinese have a right to establish schools here for the benefit of their children, although Chinese children born here undoubtedly have free access to the public schools. The idea is rather humorous, though. Chinese schools on American soil and American schools in China? We send missionaries to China to educate the Chinese children there, but the Chinese children here we neglect and so invite the Chinese to come over and do the work of education themselves.

IN THE INTEREST OF EDUCATION

The night school system which was begun several years ago by the pastor and members of the First Congregational church of this city, and as now re-established in a much more amplified form by the Salt Lake Y. M. C. A., is part of a great and growing movement over the country. There is a marked increase in the desire for education, and particularly a training bearing upon specific callings and professions. This is an age of specialization. The old time jack-of-all-trades no longer exists; it is the man who has the mastery of one specialty, who is in demand. This involves often protracted application to long courses of study.

To young aspirants who are forced to work for a living, it is a matter of serious concern how to accomplish this; and the only apparent solution is the night school. So these institutions are

opening all over the United States, many of them giving an excellent technical knowledge of the trades. The Salt Lake Y. M. C. A. is branching out as rapidly as possible along the lines of the technical trades.

In New York a step has been taken beyond the technical and secondary night school, in the establishment of the Night College. A massive building on Washington Square is utilized for the purpose, and the brilliantly lighted structure stands at night, a marked object lesson in the newly biased pathway of educational endeavor. The majority of the students are school teachers and professional men who desire to complete a college training, but are unable to go by day. School teachers are a majority in the college, but there are lawyers and men in many lines of business who by hard grinding out of hours, seek a college education—even men in factories, motormen and engineers who wish to rise, and as a preliminary seek to gain the many rungs in the ladder which mental drill will give.

If the night school system is developed to its full fruition in Salt Lake, there is no reason why in due time, night courses can not be established at the State University in the higher branches of study for the benefit of many earnest seekers for a higher proficiency in the various departments of life in which their special energies may be directed.

The President will not hunt Teddy bears in Louisiana.

Napoleon had his Waterloo. Bonaparte has his Landis.

The trouble with those Moors is that they refuse to stay routed.

It wouldn't take very many Lustralis to bridge the Atlantic.

The "dark horse" has no rights that a politician is bound to respect.

"I know a wood," sings a poet. Something after the big stick style?

The approach to Brooklyn bridge is New York's great stumbling block.

An Ohio judge has decided that "a woman is as old as she looks." Plus.

Many a candidate who has a presidential bee in his bonnet is destined to be "stung."

It looks as though the price of coal was going to reach the top rung of the ladder of fame.

The end of the telegraphers' strike is invisible though many have claimed for a long time to see it.

Denver society has decreed that the fat woman must go. After this it will be a tight squeeze if she remains.

"When a man gives his word, how can he keep it?" asks the Los Angeles Times. But taking it back, surely.

University of Chicago football players may do their training on a vegetarian diet this season. What is the difference? All flesh is grass.

If Mr. Rockefeller wants a poetical name for his great trust when he gets it reorganized, we would suggest one from the works of Bret Harte—Ah Sin.

There are eighty-six general and official holidays in Russia each year. There are enough butcheries there to make a Russian holiday every day in the year.

Walter Wellman is being subjected to many jibes and much criticism because of his failure to reach the north pole. Say what they will, there are no flies on him.

It is rumored that the Standard Oil company will reorganize and take another name. Let the epitaph of the old corporation be, Here lies one whose name was writ in oil.

A beautiful Los Angeles girl attempted to drown herself at Ocean Park, and was rescued by two men. It is said, she could be happy with either were "tether dear" away.

A Chicago woman has applied for an injunction to prevent her husband talking to her. And here in Salt Lake a woman has applied for a divorce because her husband won't talk to her. A swap of husbands might be made.

A BUSY COMMISSIONER.

Springfield Republican.
The commission of pensions, Veterans' Affairs, of Missouri, is reducing the force in the pension bureau as fast as the natural order of things will permit. When he took office there were about 1,500 employees of the pension bureau, and then he got on with 150 less. These were not discharged, but as vacancies occurred they have not been filled. During the current fiscal year there have been seventy reductions of this kind, and for the fiscal year beginning next July, Commissioner Warner expects to get along with a reduction of about 140. He has no thought of resigning, by the way.

SAFE WAR SHIPS A PROBLEM.

Baltimore American.
The recurring accidents on naval ships resulting, as has often been the case, in fatalities more numerous than the average on similar ships that have passed through the ordeal of battle, emphasize the fact that the equipment of modern warships is fearfully defective, even in those of peace. Our own naval authorities, and doubtless those having the responsibility for other navies, are engaged in a constant endeavor to reduce the dangers of handling and storing explosives to a minimum. It is a problem not yet solved, however, how to insure that a combination of chemicals full of death-dealing possibilities shall be harmless to handle when there is no war on the programme.

DECENCY.

"Whatever is the matter," questions an old fashioned reader, "when half the world seems to be losing its head in a way that the ghastliest possibilities of fifty years ago scarcely would have predicted?" It seems pretty bad, we'll admit, but not as bad as old fashioned readers would have believed. There is in this day far too much of this "affinity" business, far too much divorce, far too much scrapping for a place in the spotlight, a tendency toward the ghastly, the yellow journal, which, like any other pest, is to have its hour and disappear.

But there remain, thank heaven, enough of the old fashioned people to pilot society through the channel, enough of well-intentioned, well-trained men and women to teach the gospel of really private lives of decency and high purpose.

JUST FOR FUN.

Wasted Hours.

I the days when piano lessons were thought a necessary part of a young woman's education without regard to aptitude, the head of a fashionable school in St. Petersburg asked Rubinstein how many hours a day her pupils should practise the piano.

"None," was the laconic response of the great pianist.—Youth's Companion.

He Said It.

Hurried Customer—Have you a copy of "Pickleberry Hunt?"
Bookseller Salegiri—No, sir; but we have Pickleberry Hunt.
Hurried Customer (with offended dignity)—That's what I said, miss.—Chicago Tribune.

A Possible Help.

"He had his wife arrested for non-support."
"Prominent socially?"
"Not hitherto. This affair may help them some."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

A Manly Woman.

Teacher—Of what profession is your father?
Scholar—Am I obliged to tell you?
Teacher—Certainly!
Scholar—He's the bearded lady in a show.—Floh (Vienna).

Ran Across a Friend.

"But, cousin Bertha, how did you make the acquaintance of your second husband?"
"It was quite romantic. I was out walking with my first, when my second came along in an automobile and ran him down. That was the beginning of our friendship."—Fliegende Blätter.

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