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SALT LAKE CITY, JUNE 9, 1908.

Y. M. AND Y. L. CONFERENCE.

The thirteenth general annual conference of the Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement associations of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be held in Salt Lake City, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 12, 13 and 14, 1908. All officers and members of the associations are requested to be present at all of the meetings of the conference, and a cordial invitation is hereby extended to the Saints generally to attend the meetings to be held in the Tabernacle on Sunday, June 14, at 2 and 7 o'clock.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
General Superintendent Y. M. I. A.

MARTHA H. TINGEY,
President Y. L. I. A.

UTAH RECOGNIZED.

The President, as will be seen in the dispatches, has appointed Senator Reed Smoot chairman of the Committee on Forests, as well as a member of the Executive committee, of the National Commission for the preservation of our national resources. This is a well deserved recognition of the ability of Utah's senior Senator, and of the services he has already rendered the country in his executive office. It is a distinction of which Utah cannot but feel proud. Governor Cutler was one of the members of the committee on resolutions, suggesting the formation of national and state commissions and materially aided in the adoption of this wise measure. Utah is recognized in the councils of the nation as never before in the history of the State.

It is a question whether the importance of the results of the conference of governors held a short time ago in the White House, Washington, under the auspices of President Roosevelt, is generally appreciated. Those results were embodied in a series of resolutions adopted at the closing session. These resolutions were the work of the Governors of Utah, Louisiana, New Jersey, South Carolina, and Wisconsin, and they are broad in scope. They propose the holding of further national conferences to further consider the subject of the preservation of our natural resources; legislation looking to the protection of forests from destruction, the prevention of waste in mining, the protection of water resources for irrigation, water supply, water power and navigation; they recommend the creation of commissions, State and National, on the Conservation of Natural Resources.

The last recommendation is, perhaps, the most important of all. The wide dissemination of knowledge on the subject is highly needed. In some countries the knowledge possessed by experts can very often be put into practice by means of a royal or imperial decree, but here, where the people rule, the people must be enlightened on the measures needed for the advancement of the public interests. If state and national commissions are created, in accordance with the recommendations of the governors the data needed for a true appreciation of the country's stock in land, forests, water, minerals, etc., would be gathered, and legislation would be formed accordingly.

The question of the preservation of the forests is one of great importance. Some years ago the National Forestry Association pointed out that one cause of the decline of nations is the destruction of forests. There are other causes, but that is one. Before the forests of Lebanon were destroyed, Palestine supported millions of inhabitants on an area that now scarcely sustains half a million. Syria, once maintained a multitude of prosperous towns and cities—Antioch alone having at one time a population estimated at half a million—but is now anything but a prosperous country.

"The destruction of Syria's forests," says the Bulletin, "began 2550 B. C., followed by the disappearance of her soil and the decay of her industries would alone have produced this effect. Babylon, once capital of the world, is a heap. Nineveh and Carthage, once the seats of mighty civilizations, and abundantly equipped by generous nature for permanent life, are desolate wastes. Man destroyed the forests, and lands which once flowed with milk and honey were transformed into deserts."

When such results of the destruction of natural resources are considered, the importance of the action taken by the congress of governors, on the recommendation of the committee on resolutions, of which the Governor of Utah was an influential member, will be understood. The preservation of a nation's natural resources is a question of national life, or death. The appointment of Senator Smoot as chairman of that committee is the best that could be made.

NATIONAL CONVENTIONS.

National conventions for the purpose of electing a president and vice president appear so natural to the American citizen that he can hardly realize that any other method would be possible. And yet, the convention system is regarded as an invention, rather than a natural product of political evolution. The first national convention does not date further back than 1832, when Andrew Jackson was nominated for president and a platform of one plank was adopted, providing for the protection

of American industries. The two-thirds rule for the nomination of candidates was also adopted at this first convention.

Washington was chosen president by unanimous consent. Several presidents were nominated by caucuses of congressmen, but that plan did not become popular. It was thought to have a tendency to establish parliamentary control. It was first when the nation was sufficiently consolidated that the people took matters in their own hands.

For the sake of comparison it can be stated that in Great Britain the prime minister is never chosen by a party convention. The sovereign selects for the position the leader of the party dominant in the House of Commons. This leadership is usually the natural outcome of long service on the part of a member who has proved himself a ready debater, and a man of executive ability. Disraeli, Gladstone and Salisbury claimed their premierships without the intervention of party conventions. The President of France is elected by the Senate and Chamber of Deputies and the President of Switzerland is also a parliamentary selection. The British colonies have adopted the English scheme in preference to the American.

THE WATER DECISION.

The decision of Judge Morse establishing the rights of the City to the water acquired in the Big Cottonwood creek during the Morris administration, is a vindication of that administration against the unjust criticism of the so-called American party organ.

During that administration several improvements were planned, with the consent of the citizens. One of these improvements was the acquisition of water rights for the purpose of remedying the scarcity from which the City had suffered every summer, for several years. To buy the water, construct a conduit, and extend the sewerage system it was necessary to bond the City, and the citizens voted a bond issue for those purposes.

But then something happened. In the first place the opposition organ claimed that the bond issue was not authorized by the vote, and this report was sent out to frighten capital away. Special representatives of the City had to be sent east, to correct the false impressions created by the organ of the "Knockers."

Further, when the negotiations for water had been concluded, the friends of that organ tried to defeat the scheme by law suits. They declared the City had acquired no rights by the negotiations. Friends of the party that has steered the City toward the shoals of financial ruin, opposed the bond issue voted for the purpose of acquiring water, and then they tried to prevent the City from obtaining the water bought, by law suits. The decision of the court, after so long wait, is another defeat, in the legal arena, of the obstructionists who have opposed every real measure of progress but who nevertheless claim the honor of being the real builders of the City.

Whenever those obstructionists venture into court, or come before an impartial body with their statements, allegations, and pretenses, they are defeated. They are sustained only where prejudices decide.

THE CURRENCY LAW.

A Washington dispatch states that preparations are now being made by the treasury department for the prompt carrying into effect of the provisions of the new currency law.

That law provides that national banking associations, each having an unimpaired capital and a surplus of not less than 20 per cent, not less than ten in number, having an aggregate capital and surplus of at least \$5,000,000, may form voluntary associations to be designated as national currency associations.

Such an association is to file with the Secretary of the Treasury a certificate giving the names of the banks comprising it. Only one national currency association is permitted in any city and it is provided that "the several members of a national currency association shall be taken, as nearly as conveniently may be, from a territory composed of a State or a part of a State."

Any national bank of a city or association territory having qualifications for membership can apply to the Secretary of the Treasury and be admitted by him to membership. Any bank belonging to the National Currency Association may issue additional currency on any securities including commercial paper, held by a national banking association, provided the securities are satisfactory to the board of directors of the national currency association to which it belongs. The application is referred to the Secretary of the Treasury and, if, in his judgment, business conditions in the locality making the application demand additional circulation, and if he is satisfied, "that a lien in favor of the United States on the securities so deposited and on the assets of the banks composing the association will be amply sufficient for the protection of the United States, he may direct an issue of additional circulation notes to the association on behalf of such bank." The banks and the assets of all banks belonging to the association are made jointly and severally liable for the redemption of the circulation. In addition to these provisions some of the features of the Aldrich bill are incorporated in the new law.

Any duly qualified national banking association may make application to the Comptroller of the Currency for authority to issue additional circulating notes to be secured by deposit of bonds other than United States bonds. The Comptroller of the Currency passes the application to the Secretary of the Treasury and he determines the need and time of the issue and fixes the amount. The Secretary is also to determine the market value of the bonds offered as security and is to authorize circulation "not exceeding in amount 90 per centum of the market value, but not in excess of the par value of any bond so deposited."

As we have stated before, the consensus of expert opinion seems to be that the new law marks a great advance toward an improved currency system. It is not anticipated that there will be a scarcity of money in the near future. There is money idle in the banks, and

it is believed the supply will be ample for the moving of the crops. But if this proves a miscalculation, the law can be made operative as an experiment, and whatever defects it may be found to have can be remedied.

When the miner finds fault he finds trouble.

"Be sure you're right, then butt in." The modern Davy Crockett.

Col. Stewart does not say with Marlton, "What is to be banished but to be set free?"

If "the leafy month of June" would leave off storming, people would much appreciate it.

Shouldn't Fort Grant be called the American Sahara rather than the American Siberia?

No matter who is responsible for government extravagance, in the end the people pay for it.

The Eagles are preparing for their annual flight. "May the flight of the Eagle ever be thine, my boy."

The waterways commission has been reappointed. "A breath can make them as a breath has made."

That trained nurse in New York who shot and killed a physician seems to have nursed her wrong more than her patients.

Ex-Secretary of the Treasury Shaw opened headquarters in Chicago today. What is the Iowa idea that prompted him to do this?

The national forests in Northern Utah and Southern Idaho are to be redistricted. It is to be hoped there will be no gerrymandering.

One of the Pennsylvania capital graft suit defendants has just died. Probably all of them will be dead before the cases are ended.

An aeronaut says that he will attempt

UTAH Brief Notes on Its Physical Features, Resources, and Development.

By J. H. Paul.

I. THE REIGN OF FIRE.

To the Editor of the Deseret News:
Sir—In fulfillment of our understanding of several months ago, I now present a series of brief notes on the physical features of Utah. Several of these little essays will probably smack of the class-room, because the materials have been compiled in that atmosphere and were primarily intended for that use. An investigation was begun over twenty years ago, when for nine successive years the writer taught a daily class in higher geography at the university. The course consisted, in part, of local phenomena, and occupied the place since given to general physical geography. Much of this local material, compressed into brief form, has been adopted for use in the schools of Utah during the next five years, and will be published in September. For the present, certain fundamental aspects of the geography of our state, selected with a view to interest the average reader and to instruct the stranger, may appear for the ensuing six weeks, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays in the columns of your valuable paper. Should the articles afford to your readers a fraction of the enjoyment and interest which the preparation has given to the writer, then, brief and unsatisfactory as they must appear, they may have been worth while.

Yours with respect, J. H. PAUL.

ERE HISTORY BEGAN.

For the sake, merely, of logical consistency and completeness, a few observations will first be made on a somewhat remote part of the subject—the prehistoric past as explained by the present physical conditions of the land forms, rocks, minerals, and soils of this intermountain area. Among the unusual things noticed by the investigator in Utah are the hot springs and the various natural waters containing sulphur, iron, salt, and other minerals; the mineral oils and the solidified hydrocarbons, as well as coal, the lava rocks, the granite beds, the volcanic cones, the folding or faulting of strata; the enormous slip which left the Wasatch mountains steep on the western side when the Great Basin sank away from them; the still higher Uintahs, broken on the north by a similar fault— all these phenomena point to a time when the internal fires of the earth were much more active than they are today. Must have caused melted rock to well up from the interior, forcing its way through the overlying strata of sedimentary or volcanic rock, and sometimes encasing the latter in large pockets. Whether the whole globe was once in a melted condition or not, may be doubted; but it has always been hot within, and its interior has never ceased to burn. Old volcanoes in the Sevier valley, and near Fillmore, Dugway, Fish Springs, and in the far south; the "hot pots" at Midway, the large sulphur springs, and vast lava beds elsewhere, all tend to show that the primeval reign of heat which once, according to the earlier theory, converted the earth's surface into one vast lake of fire, was not the molten globe, to the center of which the gold, silver, platinum, lead, and other heavy metals would naturally gravitate—that this fancied reign of fire continued to reassert itself, long after the earth's crust had cooled, long after the hot and boiling ocean waters that may have covered it had cooled to be the fountains of deep steam clouds that once enveloped this planet, and long after the outer crust by the action of water on the original rock of the earth's crust had been formed into layers upon layers, in which epoch after epoch of geological history has been recorded in the water-formed strata of the successive earth periods.

These widespread and extensive appearances of the earth-heat of former times point with strong emphasis in Utah to what may be termed the later reign of fire. It thus alternated with a more recent domination of water. Still later occurred the present supremacy of the atmosphere, which we may call the reign of air. These successive eras have given to Utah, as to other lands, its rocks and soils, its minerals, coal, and hydrocarbons. Only the distant past can explain the present aspect of the earth surface, the lava flows, the mountain sculpture, etc. of this interesting land. Of the original reign of fire, we can infer but little; of the reign of water, which formed the stratified rocks that first overlay the heat-baked earth, we have abundant evidence; but the volcanic eruptions of which we speak here occurred subsequently to the formation of the stratified rocks and are only a direct and indirect indication of the assumed primeval condition of the earth as a globe of fire.

THE GRANITOID ROCKS.

Granite was formerly thought to be the original basis of our Western range; but Drs. Talmage and Paul have both shown that the granitoid masses,

to fly from St. Louis to Chicago this week. A man will take almost any risk to get out of St. Louis into Chicago.

The two battleships authorized at the last session of Congress are to be named Florida and Utah, respectively. How fitting their conjunction—the Land of Flowers and the Land of the Honey Bees.

It will interest the Elders who have labored as missionaries in the Swiss mission, and others interested in the work there, to learn that a second edition of the Book of Mormon in French has just been published at Zurich; also a second edition of the hymnbook. An abridged edition of the Doctrine and Covenants, translated into French by Elder A. A. Hameyer and Glaucque Steed, has also been published recently.

The president and operating officials of some of the leading railroads have decided not to raise freight rates for some time. If at all. They have reached the conclusion that to do so would increase the stagnation in business. When an increase was first talked of the very opposite view from this was held. Of course to increase freight rates would only tend to increase business stagnation. When will people learn that prosperity is based on the production of that which man wants and consumes and not on a fictitious raise in the price of the products?

According to reports, the tuberculosis congress that is to be held in Washington from Sept. 21 to October 12 will be attended by a great number of delegates. The European governments have taken great interest in the meeting and not less than 1,000 delegates are expected from abroad. Among the most eminent medical men from Europe who have signified their intention to participate in the congress are Drs. Panwitz, Calmette, Von Behring, Newsholme, Weichselbaum, Conl, Phillips, Williams, Turban, Frankie, Vargas, Spronk, Bank, Kitaato and Shigumen who have devoted their lives to the study of the dread disease.

having a barely glimmering luster or none.

The vitreous group includes the pure, rock crystal, resembling clear ice; the beautiful amethyst, purple or bluish violet, the color due to the presence of manganese; the false topaz, of light yellow, pellucid crystals; the rose quartz, pink or rose colored, in masses; smoky quartz, or crystals with a dark tint, sometimes nearly black; quartz, pale, massive, and quite common; and ferruginous (iron) quartz, yellowish, brown, or red.

The chalcedonic varieties are: Chalcedony, translucent, massive, glistening of waxy appearance, with its colors usually distributed in concentric bands, the mass agates being colored brown with iron; onyx with the colors arranged in flat horizontal layers; and flint, a massive and compact form of dark shades and often sharp edges, occurring in nodules of chalk.

The chief jewelry varieties are: Jasper, dull red or yellow from the presence of clay and iron; garnet, quartz, consisting of quartz grains compactly cemented; petrified or silicified wood often of various colors; and opal, which is a softer silica and which exhibits when turned a rich play of delicate shades. White, yellow, red, brown, and green, are some of its colorings, and it has sometimes of great beauty, occur in the Thomas mountains. These are composed in part of silica, and resemble quartz.

Two other forms should probably be mentioned: siliceous sinter, which is a loose, porous, grayish rock deposited around geysers; and tripolite, or infusorial earth, a grayish-white substance made up mainly of the flinty skeletons of microscopic plants called diatoms.

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