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SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 7, 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,
ANTHONY H. LUND,
First Presidency.

THE VERY DREGS OF INFAMY.

There are some newspapers which have become notorious for coloring and distorting facts and occurrences in such a way that the truth is perverted, the public are deceived, and persons and companies that have the enmity of those papers are materially injured. This is not at all uncommon in that which is known as "yellow journalism." We have frequent illustrations of it in this city. But an instance on Tuesday morning of whole-cloth falsehood, which was exposed in the local columns of Tuesday evening's "News," places the paper convicted of the offense in the very lowest ranks of infamous newspapers.

The story thus refuted had not the slightest basis in truth, not one thread of reality in the whole fabric of falsehood, not the slightest excuse for its manufacture, except the diabolical hatred of the concern that published it, for a company which has been of incalculable benefit to Salt Lake City. Not a day passes without some malignant untruth from that evil source, but we have paid little or no attention to its scandalous course. In fact, it has become so ridiculous in its vain repetitions of libel against individuals who have incurred its animosity that, in common with a great number of respectable non-Mormons who take the paper for the news it is supposed to contain, we have ceased to notice or peruse its billingsgate, or any of its fourth page drivel.

But in the present instance, when we learned of its pretended report of a meeting that never took place, and its statements and comments, all of which were fabricated without the slightest particle of truth, we caused an investigation into the matter, which resulted in positive proof that every word of the article that appeared in its columns with glaring headlines and sensational subheadings, was utterly false from beginning to end, every line being a lie.

The "hot words," said to have been "passed at a meeting of the Utah Light and Railway company held in this city on Saturday," were never uttered. There were no "animated addresses" made. There was no reference to "the commercialism of the Church." There was no discussion of any "bond issue." There was no talk of "overturns" to capitalists. There was no "animated debate," or any "announcement like a thunderbolt from a clear sky." There was no "consternation," nor did the "meeting break up soon after." No such meeting was held, either on last Saturday or at any time. The entire production was a "fake," and is but a sample of other stories that occasionally appear in the columns of that most infamous publication.

Its pretended news from distant points is often as unreliable as this pretended report of something that never occurred. Remarks are frequently attributed in its doctored correspondence, to leading members of the "Mormon" Church that they did not utter, and these are commented upon in the same sheet and sometimes copied into other papers, and thus the speakers are misrepresented and their views and expressions are shamefully distorted.

That kind of journalism may last for a time, and its promoters may imagine that they are accomplishing something in the fight which they are waging in a jug-handled fashion, in which there is no shadow of attempt to fight back, but they really expose themselves to the derision and disgust of decent people, and hold themselves up in the worst possible light. Their personal attacks upon individuals who seem to have aroused their impotent hatred, are not worth notice or reply. Their stereotyped epithets and accusations are not even as forcible as vaporous froth, and fall utterly in arousing even anger or resentment. They are too puerile to provoke an answer.

But when an attempt is made to give the public as matters of news, concoctions of utter and deliberate falsehood, without the least shadow of real fact, and simply invented out of spite and malice against a company in which great home interests are involved, and the injury of which means damage to the city and the state, we think it is time to enter a protest against such a course and to direct public attention to its villainy and baseness. Such a paper is undeserving of popular support, and cannot be relied upon for its news any more than it is for its opinions. It is to be thoroughly condemned or completely ignored.

RATHER EXTREME.

The infliction of a penalty upon certain respectable firms in this city under a charge before the Juvenile court, for contributing to the delinquency of boys employed at their stores, looks like a stretch of the law and unnecessary harshness.

The evident intent of the somewhat imperfect if not partly invalid statute, passed at the latest session of the Legislature, is to provide for the reclamation of juveniles under eighteen years of age, who are addicted to criminal habits or associations, and for their punishment when necessary.

The provisions in section 6 of the act cover wide ground, and include not only the commission of actual crimes but the violation of any law of the State. This has been construed by the judge of that court to apply to non-compliance with the school laws, so that a child between the ages of six and sixteen years, who does not attend school may be charged with delinquency, and any person who contributes to or encourages that delinquency is rendered liable to prosecution.

Now, it is well known that there are families in which the employment of boys not yet sixteen years of age becomes a necessity to the family support and the law recognizes this by providing that compulsory attendance at school may not be required in such cases. Also if the child attends a private school or is taught at home in such branches as are studied in the district schools the law does not apply.

The fault, if any, when boys under sixteen years of age are industrially employed, it seems to us is with the parents or guardians, and they should be proceeded against if necessary. But the administration of the school law requires and admits of discretion, which might be exercised to a greater extent than appears to enter into some of the decisions that are rendered in the juvenile court. A little inquiry and requirement instead of the arbitrary infliction of penalties would, in our opinion, accomplish the ends of justice in such cases as that under consideration.

It is evident that the court was hasty in imposing a penalty of \$50 for giving employment to a boy under sixteen years of age, by the reduction of each fine to \$10. Would it not have been just as well to have suspended judgment as the law allows, with an admonition to see that the boy is sent to a night school and thus comply with the statute? Let the school laws be enforced, certainly, but with that discretion and fairness contemplated in their enactment!

THE POPE IN TROUBLE.

Reports from Rome are to the effect that the pope's health has become affected by the troubles of the Catholic church in France. At first he was said to look upon the situation with resignation, but the recent turn of affairs seems to have had a depressing effect upon him, and it is against the advice of his medical attendants that he is at work forming the rules and regulations the new conditions seem to require.

The assembly last Sunday at the Vatican is described as pathetic in the extreme. The pope consecrated nineteen new bishops to fill vacancies in French dioceses. Many of the prelates, it is said, shed tears when they knelt down to receive the papal blessing. The pope compared the separation of church and state as it exists in France under the provisions of the new law, and the prosperous conditions of the church in the United States. "We would have been satisfied," he added, "if the French legislators had provided the same conditions for the church in France as those now prevailing under the Constitution of the United States, notwithstanding the fact that they violated a solemn treaty entered into with the holy see in order to separate church and state."

It can be readily believed that the disaster that has come to the Catholics in France, as a result of a rather vindictive interpretation of the provisions of the new law, has caused sorrow throughout the Catholic world, and especially at headquarters. The events in France should be a reminder to all leaders of men, or moulders of public opinion, that religious persecution is entirely out of harmony with our age. Whatever excuse there may have been for bigotry in former ages, deprived of light, to resort to violence, none exists today. To engage in any act of persecution is to commit the unpardonable offense of sinning against the light that has been given to this age and generation. It brings its own consequences, and they are always bitter as wormwood. France should consider the situation calmly. To separate church and state is right and desirable. But to outrage the sentiments of the people by desecrating their sanctuaries is worthy only of condemnation.

NEW MEXICAN LAND LAW.

According to a report from Mexico, President Diaz is considering a land law, which, if it becomes effective, will be for the benefit of the middle classes of the republic, and for all bona-fide settlers and actual home-builders. The proposition is to adjust the taxation on land so that it shall be more profitable for the owners of large tracts to divide them into smaller holdings that can be cultivated and made productive, rather than to keep the larger part of the estates idle.

The movement will, undoubtedly, be of great benefit to Mexico. It will make a number of agriculturists independent owners of homes, and add materially to national wealth, as well as to the population. It can well be believed that the contemplated reform is as its friends claim, one of the greatest ever undertaken in the country.

millions of inhabitants, in addition to its present population. And the cutting up of the large haciendas for the benefit of smaller settlers, will have a tendency to draw home-seekers in that direction.

A NEW PAPER.

The first number of the Infantry Sentinel, to be published weekly by the enlisted men of the Twenty-ninth U. S. Infantry, stationed at Fort Douglas, has been received by the Deseret News. It is a very neat and attractive little paper of six pages, containing news and information of special interest to the folks at the Fort and to military people generally in the West. A thousand copies of the Sentinel have been printed and circulated at the various posts in Utah, Colorado, Arizona and adjacent points, and it is the intention to send it to the military stations throughout the country and even to the Philippines. If the venture proves successful, it is, of course, a service paper, devoted to the interests of the army and to the publication of such news as will be attractive to soldiers everywhere. It contains a number of advertisements, which will doubtless prove a source of revenue to the publishers, and we hope the Sentinel will succeed in its journalistic enterprise and receive the support which it anticipates and desires.

INTERNATIONAL DEADLOCK.

It is evident that there is little, if any, disposition of the part of Germany to arrive at a friendly understanding with France as to the questions under discussion at Algeiras. Difficulties are involved at every new proposition. Neither France nor Germany show any disposition to yield anything. They are very much in the position of the two goats that met on a narrow bridge, where it was impossible to turn back. Unless one of them has the sense to lay down and permit the other to walk over, the deadlock will have to be broken by force.

Ambassador von Sternberg has explained Germany's contention. His country, he says, stands for "the open door" in Morocco. Only his government cannot permit France and Spain to perform the task of police duty in the country, since that would mean French preponderance of influence. Germany would delegate the police business to some of the smaller powers—to secure, we presume, the preponderance of influence for Germany, in an indirect way. It is difficult to accept the explanation as sincere. It sounds more like an effort to conceal the real purposes of the German government, than to reveal them. Eventually, it will, no doubt, turn out that Germany is playing for some bigger stakes than Morocco of Morocco. They are rather in the direction entirely different from that of Morocco. It is interested in the Balkan affairs, and in the Turkish situation. And it would not be surprising to learn some time, that the operation at Algeiras was put up for the purpose of distracting public attention from some schemes and plots laid in another part of the world.

As far as can be judged, the powers represented at Algeiras do not, generally favor the German claims. France, Great Britain and Spain have been drawn closer together than ever. Italy, Germany's ally, remains neutral. Austria signifies that her interest in the Moroccan question is so slight that she cannot go to extremes. The Czar is said to be exercising his influence for peace; but has he any influence at all in the council of nations? It only remains for the American delegates to the conference to declare themselves, and the probability is that the final outcome will depend chiefly on them.

This is pure food weather.

Things worth knowing—where you put things.

The yellow peril appears to be fearfully afraid just now.

City councils seem to think that session is nine points of the law.

With some people consistency is a jewel, with others it is a "daisy."

The report of the Caldwell, Idaho, grand jury was heard around the world.

Be the conduit what it may, some of the schemes for tinkering with it won't hold water.

After a big navy and big coast defenses and a big army staff—what? Conscience?

Andy Hamilton has returned to New York. Will the big insurance companies kill the fatted calf?

The U. S. Supreme Court holds that an Indian is not a citizen. Only an aborigine whom nobody owns.

Charles M. Schwab has gone east a very sick man. It is to be hoped that he has not become sick of the west.

Washington is to be made a model city. It may yet become, like the Black Bombazine, a model of all the virtues.

"Washington this winter is full of magazine writers." But what is worse, the magazine writers are full of Washington.

One goeth, another cometh. Richard A. McCurdy has sailed for Europe. "Judge" Andrew Hamilton has returned from Europe.

At Algeiras France and Germany are not making threats, but it begins to look as though they were making faces at each other.

Guam is threatened with a shortage of provisions. The thing seems impossible in the face of Commander Leary's prosperity mandate.

The Chinese government is very much perturbed over reports that foreign governments are preparing to invade the empire in case of an anti-foreign

uprising. It certainly behooves the empress dowager to climb right on to the lid and sit there unmoving.

Neither fire nor life insurance business is interstate commerce business within the meaning of the Constitution. It is the view of an overwhelming majority of the judiciary committee of the house, to which the question was referred as to the power of Congress to regulate the insurance companies. A very sensible view to take.

HIS WIFE'S MONEY.

Atchison Globe.
Once upon a time a man married a woman who had inherited \$500 from a grandfather. This was all she ever received, but the man never got credit for his efforts the rest of his life. He built a new store. "Did it with his wife's money," the neighbors said. The home was made over and enlarged. "His wife's money did it," was the only comment. The little mealy \$500 she inherited was given the credit for everything he did during life, and when he died and his widow put up a monument with his life insurance, "Her money paid for that," was said again. But this is what her money really went for: During her engagement she bought herself a \$350 piano and a \$150 diamond ring and in a few weeks lost the ring; there was always some regret that she didn't lose the piano.

PLANS A HOME FOR INVENTORS.

New York Times.
Believing that there is need of a home for destitute inventors, J. W. Bunker, himself an inventor, says he will build such a home near New York city. Mr. Bunker asserts that he has already in hand sufficient capital to erect the building and equip it with facilities to enable indigent inventors to prosecute their labors. He says there are many persons in the United States who have made valuable inventions, but who have failed to gain any considerable returns from them. Mr. Bunker has financial interests in New England, but has recently been staying at the Broadway Central hotel. Before starting recently on a pleasure trip through the south he made known his intention of building a home for indigent inventors. Mr. Bunker says lawyers will also be engaged to aid poor inventors to get patents from the patent office and for the protection of patents already obtained.

CULTIVATE THE SENSES.

Victor Smith in the New York Press.
Attention has been the making of many an otherwise successful man. Military men have long appreciated the value of attention; but our schools, public and private, seem not to understand the meaning of the term. Before giving an order to his men the officer shouts, "Attention!" Once in a great while there is a commander who uses the full word, "Attention!" That is, to bring a soldier to "attention" is to make him understand that his nerves must be on a "tension," his whole being must concern itself with the business gathering. The man of the indolent ear is a failure.

A CRIME AGAINST CHILDREN.

Baltimore American.
Whatever views may be held of divorce, there is one feature of divorce trials which is repulsive to all people of good feeling which it is a pity there is not some law to abolish, and that is bringing little children into court as witnesses against accused parties. Such impressions as are then gained might never leave a child's mind, and general public policy seems to be against the practice.

JUST FOR FUN.

Him—I swear my love for you shall never grow less.
Her—Would you—er—mind swearing like that before a notary?—Chicago News.

Cruel.

Mrs. Gunner—This paper says that moths can be killed with cigar smoke.
Her—Would you—er—mind swearing like that before a notary?—Chicago News.

A Test of Lunacy.

Some visitors were being shown over a pauper lunatic asylum. They inquired of their conductor what method was employed to discover when the inmates were sufficiently recovered to leave. "We have a big trough of water," said the conductor, "and we turn on the tap. We leave it running and tell 'em to bale out the water with pails until they've emptied the troughs." "How does that prove them?" asked one of the visitors. "Well," said the conductor, "them as ain't idiots turn off the tap."—Tatler.

There Were Others.

"Ah!" said the fair widow, "you have been in some pretty tight squeezes, haven't you, colored?"
"Yes," answered the old warrior, putting his arm around her waist, "and I'm not the only one."
And he immediately proved the truth of his assertion.—Judy.

The Ideal Legislature.

Houston Post.
What a great thing it would be to have one Legislature composed of men not candidates for re-election or for any further political honor. Then something worth while could be expected.

Money Marriage.

Baltimore Sun.
It is declared that money was responsible for the separation of the Castellans. Money was also responsible for the marriage.

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