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SALT LAKE CITY, - MARCH 16, 1904.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Seventy-Fourth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Sunday, April 3, 1904, and continue until Wednesday, April 6. A general attendance of the officers and members is requested and expected.

As the General Conference will commence on April 3, the first Sunday in the month, which is the regular Fast Day, the Saints in the Salt Lake and adjacent Stakes of Zion will observe the monthly fast on Sunday, March 27, 1904. The stake and ward authorities in distant places will use their own judgment as to making the change for this occasion.

The general conference of the Deseret Sunday School Union will be held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday evening, April 3, at 7 o'clock, and the attendance of all officers and teachers is desired. A general invitation is extended to all Sunday school workers and Saints to be present.

A general Priesthood meeting will be held in the Tabernacle on Monday evening, April 4, at 7 o'clock.

A special Priesthood meeting will be held in the Assembly Hall, Tuesday, April 5, at 10 o'clock a. m.

A religion class convention will be held in the Barratt hall on Tuesday, April 5, at 4 o'clock p. m.

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

SETTLE THE QUESTION.

It is to be hoped that the water users in this county will come to "the unity of the faith" on the subject of supply from Utah lake, on the plans formulated to secure government aid under the National Irrigation law. We do not understand that any of the companies in this county are opposed to the general scheme for this purpose, or averse to obtaining the means that are needed for the accomplishment of the work proposed. It is merely a difference of opinion between one of the companies interested and the others, as to the number of second feet of water they will accept as equivalent to their present holdings and rights.

We will not attempt to enter into any argument on this particular point, as we concede that the disputants know much more about their respective claims and wishes than we do. But we desire to emphasize the fact, that those of our friends who imagine they are asked to give away some of their water rights for the benefit of those "dry farmers" who have none, are laboring under a great mistake. The purpose of the government in giving aid or advancing means for increasing the water supply, is to bring into cultivation the arid lands through irrigation, and those areas now supplied with water come in but incidentally, to share the benefits of the plans devised.

What is needed now is an agreement between those who expect to reap the advantages sure to be had under the plans proposed, so that there may be nothing in the way of the consummation thereof. The majority have settled on fifty second feet as the better basis of agreement, and one company or part of it demands sixty.

Now, whether "the dog shall wag the tail, or the tail shall wag the dog," though the proposition seems to offer its own rational solution—does not matter so much as the immediate settlement of the dispute signifies. Come together, gentlemen and dispose of it without further delay! Concession is sometimes the better part of argument as "desertion is often the better part of valor."

FINE EXAMPLES, THEY!

The anti-"Mormon" morning paper in this city tries very hard to boom the anti-"Mormon" attempt at local agitation, to revive old issues and rekindle latent heart-burnings and strife. It dupe the chief promoters of the effort "the loyal men and women of Utah" and asserts that they are standing up for "good faith and morality." To many people who have scanned the list of those who have so far been roped into this scheme, for an ulterior purpose that has not yet come to the surface, those remarks of our contemporary appear very funny.

There are, no doubt, some very good people among the followers of the leaders, as there are usually in every furore that is raised, no matter on what sub-

ject. But in the language of the streets, "there are others." "Good faith and morality," eh? Fine examples of both, some of them are!

We do not want to retaliate, or spread in public print the doings of persons who might slide along without exposure, if it were not for their posing as bright and shining examples of virtue, of "good faith and morality." But there are a number of people who KNOW, and they are having fun over the exaltation of those sample moralists, and at the same time express their disgust at the fulsome adulation of their apologist.

Are we to understand that the really prominent ladies and gentlemen of this city, who deplore the attempt by comparatively insignificant persons, at resurrection of defunct hates and almost forgotten animosities, and who do not join in the rumpus are not "loyal" or "moral"? Are the strife-breeders the only "loyal men and women" here? Such an imputation is the very coarsest and most villainous of insinuations, and ought to stamp the whole laudation of the few agitators as abominable, and a shameful reflection on some of the very best people of this city.

A USELESS MISSION.

Miss Jessie Ackerman, vice president of the Universal Peace union, intends, if reports are true, to make a flying trip to the European courts, to plead with the prominent monarchs to preserve neutrality. She is the bearer of the following message from the Peace union:

"Realizing that the economic waste of life and money in war must ultimately weaken nations because it strikes at the vital life of the home, we hope and pray that your majesty will favor in international difficulties a resort to arbitration and not to force of arms, and will lend your influence in the future to the reduction of armaments."

Miss Ackerman, speaking of her trip, humbly declared that it was not her intention to influence Japan or Russia in this present crisis; it was only the intention of the peace friends "to develop the peace sentiment among the courts of Europe." She added with characteristic modesty: "I shall express our desires to the potentates that they refrain from becoming embroiled in the Russo-Japanese war. In regard to the czar and the mikado my appeal will be as opportunity affords."

The lady will, no doubt, have a delightful trip, and her experiences will furnish subjects for conversation among her friends for the rest of her life time, provided the "potentates" of Europe can find time to see her. But as for any practical results of her "appeal," she may as well remain at home and entrust her message to the mails. The monarchs of Europe do not need to be appealed to in the interest of peace. Not one of the civilized rulers of the world desires war. Not one of them covets the responsibility of commencing an attack upon a neighbor, that may have disastrous effects throughout the world. If wars come, they do so against the efforts of diplomats and kings, as the Spanish war was forced upon the United States, and the present war upon the two belligerents.

There does not appear to be any apprehension at present of a European war on account of the Asiatic situation. The real danger seems to be this, that if Russia is beaten by Japan, she may force hostilities on Great Britain to make it appear that she was overpowered, not by little Japan but by the greatest empire on earth aided by Japan. Another danger is recognized in the rising tide of pro-Russian feeling in France. Should the Combes ministry fall, and should a ministry less cautious in its foreign policy succeed to power, this pro-Russian spirit, it is thought, might be manipulated so as to produce highly unfortunate complications.

But the American lady's trip to Europe can not change this situation. The friends of peace must do all in their power to educate the public sentiment in favor of international law and international courts. That is the only way to perpetual peace. The monarchs are for peace all the time.

AN UNHAPPY RULER.

The stories that come from St. Petersburg concerning the condition of the czar sound plausible. The assertion is made that the ruler of all the Russians is spending his time in devotional exercises, and that he is incessantly upbraiding the ministry for the condition into which the empire has been plunged. Fear is even expressed that his mind may give way. The czar, it is rumored, shares this condition of her imperial consort. Report has it that she has become oppressed with the conviction that all of Russia's calamities are due to her interested abandonment of her Protestant faith in order that she might be married to the czar.

The Russian ruler has every reason to feel discouraged. If his labors for universal disarmament and world-peace were sincere—and there is no reason to believe otherwise—the present war must stand before him as a threatening specter. But that is not all. Unless Russia proves her supremacy in this struggle, there is danger that the empire will fall to pieces, and that the "sacred" inheritance of the czar will be lost in the hands of the present incumbent. There would be danger on all sides. The Turk, the Tartar, the Pole, the Finn, the Circassian, all have grievances. Who could guarantee that Finland would not be poised to revolt, or that the Poles would not again be heard from? Russia cannot afford to lose her military prestige. She has too many disaffected provinces and subjects.

The czar is described as a kindly, saddened, overworked and unhappy man. His desire to do his duty compels him to engage in an unceasing struggle with details which are never overtake. In this struggle, it is said, he is helped by one of the best and noblest of women, whose virtues are derived through her mother from Queen Victoria. When the czar was a boy he had an English nurse, who taught him to speak English without accent, and planted in his mind a love of English methods of life and habits which he has never lost.

When the czar is in private costume he has recourse to an English tailor. English family life is his delight and the English constitutional system he regards with a favorite eye.

This being the case, one would hope, that he would strengthen his own hands, and the nation, by giving to Russia a measure of liberty, but he is said to be physically weak; his nerves are shattered; his will feeble. He is amiable where iron-handedness is essential. He is dependent when a strong individuality is required. He is constantly in subjection first to one influence and then to another. He is more than usually amenable, it is claimed, to women's control, and the fair sex has on more than one occasion exercised powerful, if not calamitous, influence upon his life.

Lake Barks, General Miles is willing.

The shutting of the mouth is the beginning of wisdom.

The Cody divorce suit promises to be a genuine wild west show.

Will Attorney-General Knox please go after the beef trust now?

Japan will undertake to float a loan to show that she can float alone.

The war has had but little effect on Russian stocks, at least Vladivostok.

The supreme court has shown that it is a long lane that has no turning.

The Citizens' Alliance of Telluride, Colorado, is an expert in the enforcement of mob law.

"Be sure your title is right, then go ahead," is Uncle Sam's motto in the Panama Canal business.

The state of California is trying to prove that Mrs. John P. Dunning was killed with a bare botkin.

J. P. Morgan and J. J. Hill realize now as they never did before what "undigested securities" means.

Since the decision of the United States supreme court, it is known as the Northern Insecurities Company.

Jan Kubelik realized there was music in the air when the Germans mobbed the hall where he was giving a concert.

There is a school teacher at Saco, Me., whose name reads either from left to right or from right to left. Her name is Nellie L. Allen.

The Sultan of Sulu and his dattos got very obstreperous and Secretary Taft just abrogated the treaty with him. Hurrah for abrogation!

Redmond's defeat of the government in the Commons was quite unimportant, but it came near giving Premier Balfour palpitation of the heart.

President Roosevelt has been a mighty hunter in his day, but the biggest game he has ever bagged is the Northern Securities company.

"The fact that women vote in Utah doesn't seem to make them especially domineering," says the Worcester (Mass.) Gazette. No; just electioneering.

"Canada will make no more advances to the United States," says Sir Wilfrid Laurier. In other words, Our Lady of Snows turns the cold shoulder to Miss Columbia.

The children used to sing, (perhaps they still do) "London bridge is falling, falling down," but it never did fall. It seems to be much the same with Port Arthur, which is always falling, but never falls.

All day yesterday after the government's defeat Mr. Balfour was calling for divisions just to assure himself that he had a majority and to effectually get rid of that creepy feeling that so scares children and politicians when they are in the dark.

The report of the fall of Port Arthur is now admitted to have been premature. It came from Tokyo, via London, but was denied from St. Petersburg. In all probability, however, the persistent attacks by the Japanese will have that result finally.

"Does a neighborhood want a sidewalk? The Mayor says, confirm my nomination for clerk of the Health department or you can't get it." That of course is both false and absurd; and of course it is a Salt Lake Tribune editorial. No other paper would so openly exhibit its own silliness and mendacity. His honor the Mayor neither said nor intimated anything of the kind, and a neighborhood that wants a sidewalk has nothing to do with his nominations.

STILL THEY COME.

Tacoma News.
President Joseph F. Smith of the "Mormon" Church is not one of those despicable wife deserters, anyway.

Indianapolis Journal.
The latest charge against Senator Reed Smoot is that even if he is not a polygamist, he "associates with them." That is to say, his crime consists in living in Utah.

New London Telegraph.
How does all this matter affect the status of one Reed Smoot, in protesting against whose admission to the senate all this has been brought out? It is not shown so far that he has more than one wife. If he has not, and the Church no longer sanctions the contraction of plural marriages, it is pretty difficult to see what ground is left for objection to his holding his seat in the senate. But some of these are rather large life.

Los Angeles Express.
Talk about the strenuous life! Here is President Joseph F. Smith owing up to forty-two children, with the sexes equally divided, yet in no wise hankering to shirk his plural responsibilities. He confesses that he cannot name the dates of the births of his flock off-hand, but he says he is proud of his family and loves his wives tenderly. Such devotion is rare in these prosaic days. As a ladies' man Brother Smith

easily is entitled to the belt. Forty-two of 'em! and to think there are thousands of good Americans who would give half their fortunes for just one! Truly this is a queer old world.

Seattle Times.
The statement of Joseph Smith, the head of the "Mormon" Church, before the United States committee of investigation, must be commended for its lucidity and straightforwardness. It is evident that Joseph Smith believes in the "Mormon" doctrine, and does not fear to violate any state or national statute which runs contrary to that doctrine. No matter what one may think of polygamy—saying Joseph Smith is the head of the Church which does believe in the doctrine of plural marriages, and was compelled by the law of the land to testify, his attitude on that question will be much more respected in view of the testimony given and the manner of giving it than if he had evaded, and tried to compel the government to prove by others that which Joseph Smith best knew.

Kansas City Star.
It will occur to the public that all of the other Senators will be tremendously indignant if it shall be shown that Apostle Smoot must submit to Church dictation on certain questions. In a recent senatorial contest in Nebraska legislators were commonly referred to by the name of the railroad they were supposed to represent. But, of course, the man they elected would never think of voting otherwise than as his reason dictated on transportation matters. Mr. Addicks of Delaware recently had one of his friends elected to the Senate. But he would never dream of giving his senatorial advice as to how to cast his ballot. The feeling aroused among Senators by the hint of outside interference with Apostle Smoot must convince the American people that the prevalent notion that powerful corporate interest control certain members of the Upper House is all wrong and a libel upon Congress.

Kansas City Times.
There has been a good deal of apprehension lest the "Mormon" Church should be found to be debauching politics in Utah. This dread was proved utterly unwarranted by the testimony of a witness before the senatorial investigating committee yesterday. His evidence showed beyond doubt that the Apostles are the merest amateurs in politics, not worthy to be mentioned on the same day with the political managers of Kansas City or of the state of Missouri. "The Apostles," said the witness, "gave out instructions that 'it is the will of the Lord that you vote the Republican ticket this time.' If the 'Mormon' leaders only lived in Missouri they would soon learn that 'the will of the Lord' as an effective political force isn't to be compared for a moment with the dictum of a politician. The divine will, they would discover, doesn't control a fourth as many votes as a few energetic 'officers of the law.' Evidently there isn't the slightest reason to fear ecclesiastical organization which hasn't yet mastered the first principles of politics as practised in Missouri with the apparent approval of the voters."

Philadelphia Inquirer.
The question before the Senate committee is rather a delicate one. It is not charged that Smoot is a polygamist. He is not. He has but one wife. He is, however, one of the Apostles, and these Apostles uphold, at least in private, the doctrine of plural marriages as a cardinal one.

Now the problem arises, may a Senator of the United States believe in the morality of a doctrine which the laws have pronounced immoral so long as he does not violate the law in practice? And it is no longer contended that Mr. Smoot goes further than to assert a mental adherence to the principle of plural marriage as a divine revelation. He must assert this, for he is an Apostle, one of the governors, so to speak, of the Church, and one of the defenders of its faith. Before becoming a candidate for the senatorship he first had to obtain the assent of the other Apostles.

The case would seem to rest on the proposition whether an oath required by the Church is antagonistic to that required by the Constitution of the United States. Toward that end the inquiry is being made.

In any event the country at large is likely to obtain a very good idea of the exact conditions which surround the "Mormon" movement of today.

Spokane Spokesman.
The Smoot investigation is giving the public more or less interesting, if not salacious reading, but it is not clear what relevancy it has to Smoot's right to a seat in the United States senate. A good deal of light has been thrown on the history of the "Mormon" Church and the beliefs and practices of its members. It may be interesting to learn about the "revelations" experienced by some of the early "Mormons" and to ascertain how many wives some of the "Mormons" have, but all this makes the investigation one of the church and not of Reed Smoot.

The matter to be determined is not whether the "Mormons" have a number of regular religious beliefs or whether they regard the practice of polygamy as consistent with religion and good morals. The real question at issue is whether or not Reed Smoot has violated or is violating the laws of his state and of his country, or has committed or is committing any acts that unfit him to be a United States senator. Mr. Smoot is a "Mormon" and he has as much right to his religion as has the Jew, the Catholic or the Lutheran. To take his mere beliefs and opinions into account and attempt to deprive him of certain rights of citizenship is practically persecution of the man because of his religion, and upon the pretenses of protecting public morals, and is violating that freedom of religious worship which is guaranteed by the constitution of the United States and of the several states. So long as Mr. Smoot obeys the laws and commits no overt acts which offend the moral sensibilities of the nation, he is entitled to the protection of the laws and to whatever offices, property and other advantages he may lawfully obtain. If Congress wishes to investigate the "Mormon" Church, it probably has a right to do so; but that is something quite apart from Reed Smoot's right to hold a seat to which he has been elected by the people of Utah.

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A full and complete line of new, best colorings in Cotton Voiles, either the plain solid colors or newest mixtures, 25c values Thursday only, per yard..... 17c

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