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DESERET NEWS PHONES.

Persons desiring to communicate by
telephone with any department of the
Deseret News, will save themselves and
this establishment a great deal of an-
noyance if they will take time to notice
these numbers:For the Chief Editor's office No. 74,
3 rings.For Deseret News Book Store, 74,
3 rings.For City Editor and Reporters, 359,
3 rings.

For Business Manager, 359, 3 rings.

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THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The seventy-fourth annual Con-
ference of the Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-day Saints that closed on
Wednesday afternoon was one of the
most interesting and largely attended
gatherings of the kind ever held in this
dispensation. At the first meeting, on
Sunday morning, the Tabernacle was
overcrowded and in the afternoon that
great building and the Assembly Hall
were unable to accommodate the
throng that sought admission. An open
air meeting was therefore held in the
grounds near the Bureau of Informa-
tion, and many thousands were thus
addressed.The opening address by President Jo-
seph F. Smith was inspiring to the Con-
ference and left an impression that re-
mained through all its sessions. The
speakers were all animated with a fer-
vency that carried their teachings home
to the hearts of the eager listeners, and
caused joy and gratitude and a union of
sentiment and feeling that characterize
the latter-day work and are its peculiar
benefiction. Every speaker seemed to be
fired with a similar ardor and force
and there was perfect agreement
though much variety in the addresses
delivered.A most interesting feature of the
Conference was the presentation by the
President of the official announcement
concerning the reports about recent
plural marriages. There can be no mis-
take about its meaning. The Church
has not authorized or consented to or
had knowledge of any such marriages
since the Manifesto of President Wood-
ruff went into effect. The Church by its
formal resolution of Wednesday re-con-
firmed that official declaration and
placed its ban upon persons who shall
assume to solemnize or enter into mar-
riages violative of the law of the land.
All such individuals will lay themselves
liable to discipline in the courts of the
Church and to the extreme penalty
thereof which is excommunication.
There was no dissenting voice, but a
hearty and full endorsement of the re-
solution. It is a renewed notice to the
Church and to the country and means
exactly what it says.The resolution introduced by Presi-
dent John B. Winder resulting in the
appointment of a committee, to prepare
plans for the erection of a suitable me-
morial building to the martyred Prophe-
t and Patriarch Joseph and Hyrum
Smith, on the old Deseret News cor-
ner, was joyfully adopted by the
assembled Saints. It will be
not only a tribute to the memory
of those great and mighty men, but it
will be an ornament to the part of the city
already beautiful by adjacent struc-
tures. All who wish to contribute to its
erection may transmit their subscrip-
tions to the Presiding Bishop's office.The excellent teachings of President
Anthony H. Lund, with those of Presi-
dents Smith and Winder and Layman
were most appropriate and timely, as
indeed were all the discourses delivered,
and those presiding authorities stand
high in the faith, confidence and love of
the people, and the expressions of good
will towards them were most hearty
and universal. There was never a more
cordial and united spirit manifested
than that exhibited by the Latter-day
Saints during this conference, and the
influence thereof will undoubtedly be
carried to every place where the Church
has penetrated, and result in an in-
crease of faith and good works, which
will be pleasing to the Lord and prom-
otive of His cause in the world.The musical exercises under the
direction of Professors Stephens and Mc-
Clellan were of a high order and were
fully appreciated. The Tabernacle choir
performed excellent service, and the
numerous soloers rendered a pleas-
ing variety to the occasion. Everything
passed off in an orderly and impressive
manner, and the seventy-fourth an-
nual Conference of the Church will be
memorable in its history and be num-
bered among the brightest and best
that ever assembled.

WHO IS BAYS?

Readers of the Deseret News, and
particularly Elders in the eastern
states, will be interested in learning
something about a lecturer by the name
of Bays, who has been taking advan-tage of the recent excitement over the
"Mormon" question, by posing as a
seceder from the Church and professing
to be acquainted with its "secrets," and
therefore able to enlighten the world.
He arouses his audiences to wrath, so
that if any of our people attempt to re-
ply to his falsehoods, they are met with
violence and that intolerance which so
often seizes the populace when incited
to mobocracy. The following communi-
cation cites some of the facts relating
to the career of the piratical craft, sail-
ing under false colors, and without
genuine letters of credit, that is to be
avoided on true religious waters:Salt Lake City, April 6, 1904.
Editor Deseret News:In an editorial in Monday evening's
"News" you ask for information concern-
ing a Mr. D. H. Bays, who has been
opposing several of the Elders of the
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day
Saints throughout the east, claiming
that he was at one time a member of
the Church and quite prominent in
Utah.His statement is entirely false. Mr.
Bays never did belong to the Church,
and so far as I can learn was never in
Utah. David H. Bays, the man in
question, was born in Colorado county,
Texas, March 5, 1839, later removing to
Montgomery county in the same state.
In the latter place he joined the fol-
lowers of Lyman Wight; later he moved
to Beaver Island and joined James J.
Strang, remaining with him until the
latter's death. In May, 1861, he cast
his lot with the "Reorganization," and
for a number of years became quite ac-
tive in their ministry. In the 80's he
had a falling out with another "Elder"
of the "Reorganized" church, over a
political office. Charges and counter
charges were made, and their differ-
ences were aired both before "commit-
tees" appointed by that church and be-
fore the courts of the land. The result
was that the breach kept growing wider
and finally, in 1892, Mr. Bays tendered
his resignation to the authorities of the
"Reorganized" church, and since that
time has been fighting both the Church
of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
and also the "Reorganization."For full particulars, see "The Doc-
trines and Dogmas of Mormonism Ex-
amined and Refuted," by Heman C. Smith,
which is an answer to Bays.Your brother in the Gospel,
JOS. F. SMITH, JR.

Z. C. M. I.

The annual report of Z. C. M. I. shows
that this splendid institution continues
to maintain its high reputation in the
commercial world, and its standing in
this and surrounding states, as the
leading mercantile establishment of this
region. It is a first class institution in
every particular. It is in many respects
unique. Its sales are enormous, its
profits fair to the stockholders, its
goods to be depended upon for what
they purport to be, and its management
under Col. T. G. Webber and its direc-
torate under President Joseph F. Smith
leave nothing to be desired. Z. C. M. I.
is A. 1. in all business circles, and Utah
has reason to be proud of its stability
and its achievements. The prospects of
the establishment are bright and prom-
ising. Every possible safeguard is
thrown around its financial affairs. Its
facilities for the conduct of its whole-
sale and retail departments are unex-
celled, and its future is as thoroughly
assured as any human institution can be.
We congratulate all concerned on its
undoubted success.

JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

Field Marshal Yagomata is now
quoted as having expressed himself as
realizing the fearful odds against which
his country is fighting. Russia has
had time to strengthen its position in
Manchuria, and when the war com-
mences in earnest, Japan may have to
meet a force of 350,000 men.It speaks well for the prudence of
the Japanese leaders, that they do not
underestimate the strength of their
antagonists. They are more likely to
win if they, from the beginning, pre-
pare for a hard struggle, than if they
delude themselves by hopes for which
there is no foundation.Russia is a country two and a half
times as big as the United States, in-
cluding Alaska. It has over 140,000,000
inhabitants, and as a grain-producing
country it ranks next to the United
States. Japan, on the contrary, has
an area of only 141,153 square miles and
about 44,000,000 inhabitants. In num-
bers and resources the two antagonists
are about as unequally matched as Go-
lath and David. If Japan gains the
victory, the miracle will seem as large
as that by which the Philistine giant
was silenced forever.To a western observer the question
naturally suggests itself, why did Japan
go to war, with such odds against it?
From a Japanese point of view, the
conflict no doubt was inevitable. Japan
has just been awakened from a long
dream, and it finds its kindred all
around being slowly enslaved by the
dominant race of the world. It finds
the Chinese, the Malays, the Hindus,
and others, suffering defeat in the bat-
tle for existence. It finds Russia
pushing its way east-
ward to the ocean, and realizes that her
own turn must come after the absorp-
tion of China and Korea. Naturally,
her policy must be to do now whatever
she can, to stem the tide, to arouse her
slumbering neighbors to action, and
self-defense. Japan finds this to be its
mission, and it has just entered upon
the performance of it with all power
and energy. If it fails, the fate of the
yellow race will ultimately be that of
the black and red races. If it succeeds,
the yellow races are likely to combine
on a program giving Asia to the Asiat-
ics. Japan's war is not merely a fight
with Russia. It is an effort to halt the
onward march of the all-devouring
white race. That she confronts Russia
is mere accident. Had Japan been situ-
ated on this side of the Pacific, the
people would have been attacked by the
savages who obliterated the civiliza-
tions of Peru and Mexico, and who
crushed such sturdy fighters as the
Sioux and Iroquois. Or, situated other-
wise, Japan might have been treated
with deference, like Afghanistan; or
she might have been grabbed, like
Madagascar; or "Christianized," like
the Philippines in Spanish days. The re-
sult would have been the same. Japan
has now commenced a struggle for the
rehabilitation of her kindreds in Asia.
She is fighting against great odds, but
her statesmen are wide awake, and her
people are enthusiastic and patriotic.

QUEER IDEA OF MARRIAGE.

One Baroness Struhwe, a niece of
Tolstol, is said to have left her hus-
band, because of conscientious scruples.
She had come to the conclusion that
"marriage is immoral." Tolstol has
been blamed for this breaking up of a
home, but it is not a fact that, centuries
ago, the tendency of the world that
professed to follow the Nazarene, was
to look upon marriage as a morally in-
ferior state to that of celibacy? If it
is true that Tolstol has reached a simi-
lar conclusion, it must be because he
has reasoned from similar premises.
And if the conclusion must be con-
demned as wrong, the premises cannot
be admitted as right. It is really no
wonder if a logical mind, making a
false start, lands in absurdity. And it
is no wonder either, if those who re-
gard the marriage relation as immoral,
finally are "converted" to the practice
of all manner of immorality.

VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE.

Some of our contemporaries, referring
to the recent celebration of the centen-
nary of the British Bible society, take
occasion to say a word about the com-
parative merits of the so-called King
James' version and recent revisions of
the Scriptures, and the findings are
unqualifiedly in favor of the former.
It is admitted that modern versions
are, in some respects, more accurate
than the older ones, but taken all in
they are inferior. The New York
Evening Post says: "In fact, it is
merely commonplace to say that the
authorized version is the great mine of
true and racy idiom, and that if ever it
should become a closed book our cur-
rent speech would be impoverished." The
preference expressed for King
James' version will be readily endorsed
by the Latter-day Saints, who always
have considered that version of the
Scriptures as authoritative. Newer
translations may be of value to the
critical student, but for devotional read-
ing, it has not been surpassed.Neither Russia nor Japan is thrice
armed.This paper trust is a good deal of a
straw man.The chief use of political clubs is to
pound people into line.A word to the wise is sufficient. The
trouble is to find the wise.Sully's backers now want to get back
the amount they backed him for."Why doesn't Judge Parker talk?"
asks Mr. Bryan. Probably because he
thinks before speaking.It is to the credit of the Czar
and the Mikado that neither one has
said that he would carry the war into
Africa.There is \$300,000,000 worth of English
money invested in submarine cables.
And still the money is not considered
as sunk.Rev. Benjamin Excell of Willoughby,
O., has just died at the good old age of
eighty-four. He excelled both as a
preacher and a man.Mayor McClellan is keeping the lid on
New York as though he were afraid
that if it were removed it would prove
to be a veritable Pandora's box.A New Jersey justice has issued an
order to the Northern Securities com-
pany to show cause why it should not
be enjoined. Will wonders never cease?Probably only a Utopian will be able
to meet all the intellectual, moral and
physical qualifications called for in suc-
cessful applicants for Rhodes scholar-
ships.A California expert offers to exter-
minate the gypsy moth in Massachu-
setts for sixty thousand dollars, by im-
porting parasites from Europe. Quis
custodiet ipsos custodes?A Poe society has been founded, its
object being to raise a monument to
him and perpetuate his fame. A very
proper place for the location of the
monument would be the Rue Morgue.Secretary Moody has decided that
"The Star Spangled Banner" is the na-
tional air. That settles it, or would,
had not the people themselves settled it
long before Secretary Moody was born.If an organ grinder seated in a spot
and turning the crank of his machine
for hours and hours together, and never
once stopping, is not a nuisance then
the world can offer no nuisance.What a flimsy line was that imposed
on Senator Burton when compared with
the one handed out to Mr. Heinze by
Judge Beatty. But then the western
men generally have larger ideas than
their eastern brethren.A Washington correspondent is re-
sponsible for the following:Secretary Taft is huge. He is tall
and broad and thick. At Senator For-
aker's reception in his honor Saturday
night somebody looked the secretary
over and asked, "Mr. Secretary, how
much do you weigh?"
"Yes, I believe he did say something
of that kind.""Well," boomed the secretary, "I have
revised that. I tell everybody that no
gentleman weighs more than 300
pounds."

THE CANAL QUESTION.

Columbia has lost its suit in Paris,
intended to assert its continued con-
trol over the concession owned by the
new Panama Canal company. That
concession is among the assets that the
company will sell to the United States
for \$40,000,000. The suit was an at-
tempt to cloud the company's title.
The French tribunal finds that thepower to grant the concession is a part
of sovereignty. Colombia is thrown
out of court, because of the patent fact
that sovereignty over the Isthmus has
passed from the government of Colum-
bia to Panama. No other decision was
possible.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

One of the Panama canal com-
missioners wants to walk across the Isth-
mus along the canal route and chal-
lenge his fellow commissioners to ac-
company him. That seems to be a prac-
tical way of making the acquaintance
of the new venture.

New York World.

The senate bill for the government of
the Panama canal "zone," introduced
by Senator Kittredge, places the en-
tire charge of the zone—its laws, its
taxes, its policing, its expenditures, its
sanitation—in the hands of the present
commission. This plan has the merit
of definiteness, and responsibility. Its
defect is the concentration of vast and
various powers and activities in the
hands of an overburdened commission
of five engineers all past the period of
youthful vigor, and three of whom will
necessarily be much of the time non-
resident. It arms the president, on the
eve of a national campaign, with great
power and patronage through his ap-
pointees.

New York Evening Post.

It is somewhat singular that the sale
can now be utterly blocked if a ma-
jority of those stockholders vote
against accepting the American offer
of \$40,000,000. The administration at
no time thus far has had a binding
agreement with the French company
providing for the \$40,000,000 bargain;
and contrary stockholders, if in suf-
ficient numbers, are now in a position
to turn Mr. Roosevelt's fine batch of
bread into a hopeless lump of dough.
While every one, of course, expects
that the Panama company's stockhold-
ers will ratify the sale, without "striking"
for a higher price, it is certain
that the action of the stockholders'
meeting will be awaited with a certain
degree of anxiety. It is a strange op-
eration, at this late day, for our govern-
ment to be in. It is literally in the
power, legally speaking, of a lot of
French investors, who may or may
not prove balky at the last moment.

Boston Herald.

A citizen of Chicago, Mr. Warren B.
Wilson, has applied to the courts for
an injunction against the expenditure
of any public money on the Panama
canal. The case may not be pushed,
and again it may. We do not know
who are backing Mr. Wilson. The
ground on which the injunction is asked
is that the Spooner act, in which
the appropriation was made, provides
that the canal shall be on "Columbian
territory" acquired from the "govern-
ment of Colombia," and contains sundry
other conditions that are not com-
plied with. The bill was enacted when
the acceptance of a treaty with Colum-
bia by the congress of that country
was expected, and before the republic
of Panama came into existence. Now,
the canal strip was, in fact, acquired
from Panama, and is within the limits
of the new state. Senator Morgan,
we believe, is one who holds that on
this account the appropriation made
in the Spooner bill is not available.PURE
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