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SALT LAKE CITY, - SEPT. 25, 1905.

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The seventy-sixth semi-annual Con-
ference of the Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints will commence
on Friday, October 6th, 1905, at 10 a.
m. In the Tabernacle at Salt Lake
City. All the officers and members of
the Church are invited and urged to
be present during the sessions of the
Conference.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN L. WINDER,
ANTHONY R. LUND,
First Presidency.

HELD UP TO VIEW.

The Caldwell, Idaho, News has been
having a tilt with the Portland Ore-
gonian. It said recently:

"The Portland Oregonian better
slow talking about lack of influence
of Idaho's Congressional delegation until
its editor can make a little better
showing for his own state."

To this the Oregonian replies in a
sharp editorial dilating on the opposi-
tion of Senator Heyburn to the Presi-
dent's policy on forest reserves, and
then dashes up Dubois in this wise:

"Idaho has a Democratic Senator
who has advertised everywhere that
Idaho is in the grip of the Mormon oc-
cupation, and that its political and social
life are dominated by a criminal hier-
archy of polygamists. According to the
Dubois gospel, concubinage is the cus-
tom and defiance of law the creed of a
large and influential portion of Idaho
citizenship."

The Oregonian affirms that "it is not
Mormonism that worries Dubois, it is
what is going to become of Dubois." Further it says:

"The Idaho Mormons are a frugal,
intelligent and productive people, and
it is the common testimony of unpreju-
diced persons that polygamy has
ceased. If Dubois and his fellow-ag-
glutators thought to require by law any
Mormon who in other days had con-
structed more than one marriage, and
reared several families, to abandon ut-
terly all their children, he did not un-
derstand human nature. . . . Some-
day Idaho will learn that it is
not wise to send to Washington one
Senator with a chip on his shoulder,
loudly daring the President to knock it
off; and another who acts like a cow-
puncher and talks like a schoolboy."

We believe there are many papers
as well as people in Idaho and also
in Oregon, that have the purposes and
policy of Dubois sized up about right.
Senator Heyburn, no doubt, has his
views on the forest reserve question, in
common with others who differ with
the general plans in operations, but
we believe that difference is honest
if it be mistaken. As to the other
Idaho Senator, there is no need to say
anything further. He is pretty well
known in his own State and is gradu-
ally coming into view just as he is in
other parts of this great country.

AN UNFORTUNATE ERROR.

A minister of religion in the State of
Illinois calls the attention of churches
in that State to a change in the law
defining who may solemnize marriages.
It involves a matter of great impor-
tance, not only to religious societies in
Illinois, but to the people there gener-
ally. He addresses himself more par-
ticularly to the ministers of the Meth-
odist Episcopal church, to which he
belongs, and points out the fact that a
number of them have been acting un-
der an old law, apparently ignorant
of the change that has been made.

It appears that under a former statu-
te, all ministers of the Gospel in regu-
lar standing in the church, or society
to which they belonged, had a legal
right to perform a marriage ceremony.
Thus, any local preacher other than
the regularly appointed pastor and not
ordained as a regular minister, could
unite people in marriage. But the
wording of the new marriage law
raises a distinction not theretofore ex-
isting. It provides that "marriages may
be celebrated . . . by a regularly
ordained minister of the Gospel in regu-
lar standing in the church or society
to which he belongs."

Under this new provision only a regu-
larly ordained minister may thus offi-
ciate, and an unordained local preacher
would be excluded. The State's attor-
ney of Wayne county has given an offi-
cial opinion, that the unordained
preacher although in regular standing
and appointed by the church as a min-
ister, may not perform the marriage
ceremony. It is stated further that the
Attorney-general of the State has given
a similar official opinion.

Authorities on Methodist church dis-
cipline affirm that a licensed local
preacher is not a minister in any prop-
er sense, but a lay preacher. It is
therefore clear that such being un-
ordained ministers, have no legal right
to solemnize marriages. The question
is, what is the status of men and
women who have been united in wedlock
by preachers having no legal authority

to perform the ceremony. This is a
matter that the church to which they
belong will no doubt investigate, and
take steps to remedy, so far as that is
possible under the circumstances.

The trouble has arisen, likely,
through lack of understanding of the
law in relation to this subject. The
Methodist church, when issuing li-
censes to local preachers and author-
izing them to officiate in a marriage
ceremony, certainly does not attempt
to confer upon them authority that is
not sanctioned by law. Neither that
church nor its preachers who have thus
officiated, have any intention to vio-
late the law or place the innocent sub-
jects of an illegal ceremony in the po-
sition which some of them undoubtedly
now find themselves. The error was
unintentional, but the effects are cer-
tainly most unfortunate. The law is
clear in its language, and we have no
doubt that the ministers in that State
will conform to it as soon as they un-
derstand its meaning and its limit.

FORESTS AND WATER.

Explorers have recently called at-
tention to the remarkable fact that the
surface of the earth is actually drying up.
In this country, in Africa, in Central
Asia, the same phenomenon is observed.
Rivers and streams are gradually dry-
ing up, and large bodies of water are
disappearing. Not to mention the
shrinkage noted in the volume of water
of Great Salt Lake, it is a known fact
that a large number of lakes existing
in the historical area have entirely dis-
appeared. In Africa Lake Chad, south-
west of Nyassa, has been shrink-
ing for 20 years and has now no place.
In this country, it was discovered by
Lake Naum, which was discovered by
Livingston, exists no longer. Lake
Tchad is at present nothing but a half
dry waterhole.

Travelers in Asia tell us that deserts
are gradually widening their area, and
it is only in the neighborhood of moun-
tains, around whose brows vapor con-
denses and falls for the service of the
agriculturist, that irrigation can be car-
ried on or that life itself can be pre-
served. Reports from East Turkestan
tell of the ruins of fine cities, great
monasteries and remains of ancient ir-
rigation works which prove that 2,000
years ago what is now a vast stretch
of barren land was then a fruitful land,
where man subsisted on the products of
the soil. The river Tien-shan, which
was once a waterway of travel, is now
gone, and Lob-Nor, which formerly
covered an area four times as large
as that of the Lake of Geneva, is now
nothing but a shallow marsh with a
greatest depth of 15 feet. Siberian lakes
are also said to have greatly dimin-
ished in the eighteenth and nineteenth
centuries. In European Russia large
stretches of country that were once
covered with water are now dry, and
Novgorod, that busy scene of a modern
commercial fair, where thousands of
merchants congregate yearly, was in
the middle ages so encompassed by
marshes that the Tartars failed to capture
it.

The supposition is that the destruc-
tion of forests has played an important
part in this rapid change of the
surface of the earth. The lesson con-
veyed is to take care of the vegetation
that condenses vapor in the air, causes
rainfall and thus adds to the earth's
fresh water supply.

CRITICIZING THE TREATY.

Now that the happenings at Port-
smouth are being more closely scruti-
nized, many arrive at the conclusion that
the Japanese protests against the
ratification of the terms of peace, really
have a grievance. Paul S. Reisch,
professor of political science in the Uni-
versity of Wisconsin, is among those
who have publicly expressed this view.
In an article in the Outlook he declares
that the peace concluded was "unfor-
tunate" as it "immediately revokes all
the dangerous ambitions of Russia, and
gives the autocracy the power to re-
establish its police rule and hold fast to
its reactionary traditions."

Prof. Reisch goes on to explain that
Japan, at the critical moment, was
abandoned by her professed friends and
allies, while Russia was powerfully sup-
ported, especially by the German gov-
ernment. It is to the interest of Ger-
many to have tranquility in Russia, on
account of the danger of turbulence on
the German side. That was one strong
reason why the Emperor came to the
"moral" aid of the Czar, and, says the
Professor, "as he succeeded in frighten-
ing France in the Moroccan matter,
so now Great Britain has conclusively
proved the utter incapacity of her for-
eign policy by yielding to his plans, and
allowing Japan to lose the advantages
of her victory."

It is undoubtedly true that the Jap-
anese acted wisely in accepting peace
on such conditions as were obtainable.
But it is also true that if the convic-
tion is established among the people of
Japan, that the country was betrayed by
its professed friends, there will be
trouble at some future time, perhaps
with regenerated China added as an ac-
tive ally of Japan. And if this is to be
looked for, as a result of an unsatisfac-
tory peace, really, the governments may
as well end their talk about peace
courts. So many nations are suffering
from the injustice inflicted upon them
by stronger nations, that it is
difficult to see how peace can be per-
manent, until these wrongs are righted
and perfect justice established.

Absence makes the gas meter more
dear.

Vice President Fairbanks proposes to
stand "pat."

Dr. Goebel is finding Jordan a hard
road to travel.

Go to the ant, thou slugger; learn of
her ways and be wise.

"A closed incident" is one, usually,
where people neither forgive nor forget.

The man who hopes for the best
doesn't always get it by a long way.

There is a great outcry in Japan
against Komura. And the cry isn't
"Banzai."

Captain Bob Cook says the Japanese

have no martial spirit. They have
something equally good.

Ohio is the "dark and bloody battle-
ground" of American politics. Another
campaign has just opened.

According to the commissioner of in-
ternal revenue, patent medicines are
not a drug in the market.

In the Orient Miss Alice Roosevelt,
though quite petite, overshadows Sen-
ator Taft with his large frame.

New Hampshire thinks that Audobon
Boy is the greatest boy that ever lived.
As his name indicates, he is a bird.

The municipal campaign is about to
open, and soon defamations of charac-
ters and personalities will be in great de-
mand.

Greece and Roumania have severed
their diplomatic relations. How these
little nations love to play at the game
of big nations.

The confession of those four Chicago
packers was good for the government
purse to the amount of twenty-five
thousand dollars.

W. D. Howells confesses he was
drawn more to the Russians than to
the Japanese. Was he drawn in a
four-wheeler or in a hansom?

While the consulting engineers are in
Boston examining 'earth dams they
might examine a few of the coffee dams
for which the place is famous.

Governor Rock proposes to stop the
illegal sale of liquor in Kansas. That
will be very much like Mrs. Parting-
ton's task when she undertook to sop
up the Atlantic.

France really wants Uncle Sam to
step in and spank Venezuela for her
conduct towards M. Taigny. It is gen-
erally understood that they do this
thing better in France.

Sweden and Norway have agreed to
agree instead of to disagree. Having
parted company, peace and prosperity
to them both, and may nothing ever
bring them face to face in armed con-
flict.

There is reason to believe that the
life insurance companies would be
willing to make a handsome contribu-
tion to any charity that might be nam-
ed by the Armstrong committee would
only "let up."

Somebody suggest a permanent
world's fair in New York. It is pro-
posed to spend \$5,000,000 on grounds and
buildings to accommodate this exposition.
It will be a combination of park
and hall, and will group all that is in
the plant gardens and museums of the
cities of Europe. A general impres-
sion is that people have grown tired
of world's fairs, but this proposition
takes another view. By all means, let
New York lead the way. Other cities
will soon follow, and there will be per-
manent world's fairs in London, Paris,
Vienna, Tokio, and many other cap-
itals. Tourists may then travel from
one fair to another, and spend time
and money, without risking their pre-
cious lives in Al-Clipping or crossing
deserts.

MAKING HIM SICK.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.
Komura is now denounced as a traitor
even while his maligners are read-
ing that Russia has granted all the
conditions, and much more, that he
had down in his ante-bellum dis-
patches. Under the circumstances it
is easy to credit the report that his
present condition is due to illness of
the heart and mind rather than of the
body.

WORLD'S INFLUENCE OF AMERICA.

Mexican Herald.
Great and dramatic actions always
arise from the influence of the world,
and recent American history has been full
of them. The world-influence of the
United States began with the birth of
the republic, when the confining chal-
lenge of the Declaration of Independ-
ence stirred deeply the hearts of all
lovers of freedom in the old world. The
American Revolution was a great char-
acter in the historical evolution of man-
kind. Later came the chastisement of
remote Greece, an exercise of power
in remote Persia, the overthrow of the
United States, and, still later, an American
commodore battered down the doors of
Japan, and the world was made aware
of a nation conscious of strength, and
willing to exert its force for great ends.
From its foundations, therefore, the
United States has been a world power,
in that it has profoundly influenced the
common lot of humankind. Each step
forward in the broadening of American
influence has been part of a logical evo-
lution of power, and, on the whole,
the great cause of human freedom, of
ordered liberty has been benefited.
From the Declaration of Independ-
ence to the peace conference at Portsmouth
the United States has exercised an in-
fluence upon the course of human des-
tiny.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The September number of Progressive
West, a magazine devoted to the inter-
ests of a greater Nevada, and the only
magazine issued in that state, has
reached the "News" exchange table. It
is a fine publication, edited by a lady,
Mrs. M. M. Garwood, and there is no
reason why it should not prove a suc-
cess. The current number tells about
education in Nevada, poultry raising,
mines and mining, irrigation projects,
etc. The magazine is replete with in-
formation and is a credit to the pub-
lisher and the state.—Itano, Nevada.

The Red Book for October has a num-
ber of excellent short stories, and a pa-
per on "Some Dramas of the Day." The
"art studies" of this month—always a
most attractive feature of this maga-
zine—are of more than usual merit. The
cover, too, designed and painted by G.
C. Whitney, is a work of art.—Red Book
Corporation, State St., Chicago.

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