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SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 16, 1903.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Seventy-third annual conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, commencing on Saturday, April 4, 1903. A general attendance of the officers and members of the Church is requested.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHON H. LUND,
First Presidency.

CHANGE OF PAST DAY.

As the General Conference will be in session on the first Sunday in April, it is deemed advisable that the fast, usually observed on the first Sunday in each month, be held on the last Sunday in March, 1903, in those Stakes and Wards where the officers and members in large numbers will attend the Annual Conference. This will apply particularly to the Salt Lake Stake of Zion and adjoining places. The Presidents of Stakes and Bishops at distant points will use their own judgment as to making the change for this occasion.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHON H. LUND,
ACTS OF THE LEGISLATURE

A feeling of relief is experienced over the fact that the Legislature has adjourned, without doing any particular damage to the interests of the State. So many bills were introduced of a pernicious character, most of them, however, "by request," that there was danger during the last hours of the session, that some of them would be passed and become part of the law of the State. The Governor's veto was, of course, to be counted upon in case of anything very objectionable, but even that could be overridden under pressure. It was exercised in some instances and generally, we believe, with wisdom and always with due regard to what he considered to be the public interest.

The veto of the measure raising the school tax limit was in our opinion, formed upon excellent reasons and such as will be endorsed by the majority of the taxpayers.

The recommendation of the Governor in relation to the bill giving the children under twelve years of age to the wife, in case of a separation from the husband, was adopted by the Legislature and so the law is made unobjectionable. We opposed it as it was originally presented, for the reason that there are cases in which the mother, on moral and other grounds ought not to be made the custodian of the little ones, and therefore the law ought not to be fixed so that right could not be done in the matter. The amendment was made that, in such an event, the court can decide and that makes the measure reasonable and just, for, in the majority of instances, the mother is the proper custodian of her little children.

The veto of the osteopath bill will be variously considered. On general principles it seems that osteopaths should be at liberty to practice their profession under a strictly osteopathic license. Inasmuch as they do not use drugs, or any medicines of that kind, examinations in materia medica are not essential. They object to be made subject to examinations by a board that is opposed to their system, and which is likely to make an adverse decision in their case. On the other hand, "regular" physicians argue that no one should be permitted to go around among the sick as a doctor, who cannot pass an examination in anatomy, physiology, pathology and therapeutics, and they claim that those persons who can pass such an ordeal may practice what branch or school or method of healing they please. The Governor seems to have favored the latter view of the case.

We think people ought to have the privilege of choosing their own physicians, and that if osteopaths keep within the lines of their own methods, they should be permitted to do so without being prosecuted. At the same time we must admit that precautions are necessary to protect the public against quackery and the assumptions of ignorant and unqualified practitioners. We do not mean by this that osteopaths necessarily come under that category.

The most important among a number of salutary measures passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, is the irrigation bill. It is of a sweeping character, but that need occasion no alarm. It will not disturb existing organizations or water-rights. For some time to come there will be no need for any action in relation to them. It is only in the case of new appropriations of water that a different

course from that of the past must be pursued. Application will have to be made to the State Engineer before any new appropriation can be effected. As to existing water rights, whether of individuals, companies or corporations, there will be no disturbance. To carry out the provisions of the new law, so as to fix definitely the rights of all parties as water-users, the State Engineer will have to take some stream or source of supply to begin with. After the hydrographic survey of that stream will come the applications of the several claimants to its use, and they will be determined in the manner prescribed, and the rights of each one will be established beyond further question. This process will be continued until the whole water system of the State is regulated and water rights are made definite and permanent.

This will take a great deal of time, but under the provisions of the new law will, we have no doubt, be found satisfactory. All the established systems and companies and water-takers can continue as under the old law, without disturbance or hindrance from the new law. When the date comes for action to be taken to settle their respective rights, it will be time enough to proceed as the new law requires. We think it is an excellent measure and that it will be so viewed, generally, when the full text of the law is thoroughly examined and understood.

We congratulate the members of the Senate and of the House on the close of their arduous labors, and the good results thereof. And we are glad that party politics has not to any great extent disturbed their proceedings. The personalities occasionally indulged in are to be regretted, but seeing that harmony characterized the closing hours of the session, it is to be presumed that all will go to their homes with feelings of satisfaction and good will. "So mote it be!"

ARID LANDS COMMISSION.

Utah will make its application for some of the benefits of the National Irrigation law, for the reclamation of the arid-lands. Under it several of the western States have secured recognition and doubtless large portions of the appropriation for that purpose will fall into their hands. This State would have moved earlier in the matter, if the plans suggested by Col. E. F. Holmes and others associated with him had been carried out, respecting the Utah Lake, its tributaries and the canals leading therefrom. However it is better late than never.

The Legislature has provided for a commission to obtain such aid from the government as is possible under the National Irrigation law, and the governor has made the appointments. They are as follows: A. F. Doremus of Salt Lake; Joseph A. West of Ogden; Harnden Bennion of Uinta county; L. R. Anderson of Mont; and Wm. E. White of Piute county. In their hands the matter will be safe.

It is proper, however, to say that no time should be lost in taking action under the law. It will not take long, at the rate in which the funds are proposed to be disbursed to exhaust all that are in sight. If Utah does not come in now, it may be many years before she will have another chance to obtain the pecuniary aid that is necessary and is still possible under the irrigation law.

We understand the committee will hold a meeting very soon, and we hope that measures will be taken then to push the movement to a rapid and successful issue. It is urgent and imperative that immediate measures shall be adopted and vigorously carried out.

A CLOUD RISING.

The traditional "cloud no larger than a man's hand," has made its appearance in the Washington sky, and we would not be surprised if its presence formed one reason—not the dominating one, of course—why the Senate wished the House to share the responsibility of granting reciprocity to Cuba. The cloud in question is the attitude of the various governments of Europe towards this nation over that same Cuban question. If we grant Cuba a reduction of 20 per cent from the existing tariff on sugar, as it looks probable we may do, up rise Germany and France, possibly other countries as well, and remind us of that clause in our treaties with them which says that they shall enjoy the same advantages in the tariff that may be granted the most favorable nation with which we do business.

That will be a most awkward reminder for Uncle Sam. He may point in vain to what he imagines his duty towards Cuba to be, but the European nations whose corns are trodden upon, will be apt to respond that "the foot of an act" is silent upon that point. Small as Cuba is, her sugar exports reach amazing totals, and if they are to be allowed to slip through our custom houses, without paying the same duty that European sugar is called on to pay, then it will seem that the European sugar grower has just cause to grumble.

The question is, what is Europe going to do about it? She may, it is true, attempt retaliatory measures, by closing her ports against our goods, but it is a question as to whether her need of buying those goods is not as urgent as our need of selling them. Washington advises state that the British, French and German ambassadors have filed "polite but pointed" notes asking to be informed as to the Cuban sugar question. Should those countries really go to the length of shutting off our foreign markets, there would be a collapse in our national prosperity appealing to contemplate, and our only solace—a very small one—would be the reflection that they were suffering as much as ourselves.

The whole sugar question is one of many complications throughout the world; aside from the aspect of the matter above noted there is the question as to what effect the abolition of export bounties by European countries—a radical measure proposed for this year—will have on world prices of sugar, and the additional question as to what the result on the beet sugar industry will be, in case the Cuban sugar tariff is reduced, and Uncle Sam looks horns with Europe in a general tariff war.

TO DISARM.

French Socialists have commenced an agitation for the reduction of the French army to such a proportion as may be necessary for ordinary police purposes. They claim, contrary to the contention of the advocates of militarism, that large armies are a menace to the peace, instead of a guarantee thereof. They think that if France will set a good example, Germany will almost surely follow.

The agitation is socialistic, but it will surely be supported by a great number of citizens, outside the radical military classes. France would be indefinitely better off without its excessive military burdens. The energy now spent on preparations for war could be employed in the interest of industry, commerce, arts, etc., with great profit to the nation. There would be more prosperity and more happiness among the people. There would probably be more marriages and more births, under the more favorable conditions that the reduction of the army to rational dimensions, would inaugurate. The French army is, after all, a relic of past times of oppression. It is an anachronism in a modern republic. With the reform urged by the friends of peace, there is no reason why France should not be a much stronger power than it is today. For power and influence now go with prosperity and wealth rather than with large standing armies.

The experience of France during the last war with Germany ought to count for something. Her standing armies were swept away like chaff before the wind, and what little effective defense was done, was due to the citizens that joined the ranks. The large army was then created in the hope that some day France might obtain revenge on her rival, but that hope has been in vain, so far. The military policy of France and Germany has instead become the curse of Europe. France ought to be the first country to return to a policy demanded by an advanced civilization.

That does not mean that the country should permit military matters to be entirely neglected. The present status of civilization does not permit that. But tactics and shooting and fencing, and such things, could be profitably taught in the schools. Then the youth could be given a month, or so, for a couple of years or more, of practical work in the field. Officers should be specially trained for the work of leading citizens, not military slaves. That would do away with the long barracks life that eats the morals of the nations like cancer, and makes them unfit in the hour of trial to stand against the storm. If disarmament were commenced in earnest, it would command a following. There are Socialists enough in Germany to make a big demonstration in favor of the movement. The proposition came, as will be remembered, from the Czar. It is not impossible that it will yet receive consideration.

FOR MR. BEECHER.

The proposition is to convert the present site of Plymouth church, Brooklyn, into a park and erect there some memorial of the great preacher who so long occupied that pulpit. It is suggested that a "hall of patriotism" be built which shall contain reminders not only of Beecher but of other men and events associated with the history of the country.

The suggestion is admirable. Beecher, though at one time the object of scandalous attacks the purpose of which evidently was to destroy his usefulness, remains one of the greatest American preachers. And his work impressed itself upon the religious world of the country. He it was, who, among all the preachers of the world, grasped the great truth that God is love and proclaimed it. He broke away from a trodden path of eternal hell fire, calling upon his fellowmen to serve God from love and not from terror. He deserves to be remembered by his country.

One of the anecdotes told of Mr. Beecher is to the effect that on one occasion, when addressing a number of "orthodox" ministers, he said to them in substance: If ever you get to heaven, three things will astonish you very much; first, that there are so many people whom you thought had gone to the other place; secondly, that so many had gone to the other place, whom you had expected to meet in heaven; and thirdly—the greatest wonder of all—that you find yourselves in heaven and not in hell.

The little anecdote is good enough to be true. It shows Mr. Beecher's estimate of the theology and sincerity of his contemporaries.

A QUESTION OF HONOR.

Mr. Joseph W. Kay of Brooklyn writes, in behalf of Grand Army veterans, a letter of complaint addressed to Representative Dick of Ohio. The dissatisfaction is caused because a resolution urged by Mr. Kay, which would have given preference to soldiers and sailors in public employment, failed to receive consideration by Congress.

Mr. Kay claims that the Veterans saved the "political situation" in 1900, and that this was done on the following conditions, viz., a change in commissioner of pensions, the passage of the veteran bill then pending, and approval of a court of pension appeals bill. With these conditions agreed to, "the strongest organization ever perfected among veterans was brought to bear in every doubtful locality. Everywhere the fighting was forced, until the close of the polls. In that campaign the Veterans' Patriotic League deserved and received the thanks of Mr. Hanna, Mr. Manley and Mr. Payne in letters to myself and others." But, we are told, the promises were not fulfilled, and now Mr. Kay wants to know whether "the sense of honor is entirely lost among Americans."

The letter is interesting as showing that the spokesman for the Veterans claims recognition, not only on account of services rendered during the Civil War, but also during political campaigns. If that principle were to

be recognized as correct, there would be no end to claimants for extraordinary recognition.

Gone but not forgotten—The Legislature. Better late than never—Ceasing to blab.

Maude Gonne is more than a bride. She is a MacBride.

"The Burdick Inquest gives me Payne," says the Buffalo police.

The spring atmosphere is filled with the dolce far niente microbe. People living along the Ohio prefer to be highlanders to lowlanders just now.

Let the Father of Waters bid his children cease their raging and be calm.

The atmosphere is, with a few exceptions, the only smoke consumer in use in our city.

If the Wabash employees cannot walk out on strike they will continue to have a run of business.

The favorite hymn of the Tabernacle choir just now is, "Upper California, O that's the land for me."

Senator Lodge resembles the Czar of Russia in looks. He would be glad to resemble him in other ways.

All things change with time, even adages. "You cannot keep a good man down," has become, "You cannot keep a rich man down."

"An ounce of keep-your-mouth-shut is worth a pound of try-to-square-yourself," says the Chicago News. True, O paragraph!

That London promoter under arrest in New York has had as his motto: Do what is right and let the consequence follow.

England is somewhat worried about her bread supply in the event of hostilities. Let England remember that man lives not by bread alone.

Will the Senate confirm or reject the nomination of Dr. Crum to be collector of the port of Charleston, S. C.? Or will it simply leave it severely alone?

The invention of a young Alabamian that enables the deaf to hear might be used to advantage by those who are deaf to the voice of conscience.

The Kaiser has given orders that fire engines do not stop for him or the Empress. A very sensible, modern, progressive order. Hats off when the fire engines go by!

If the Czar's reform program is not better carried out than some in this country have been, it will be some little time before Russia will be a religious and municipal paradise.

Mr. Bostock has bought the London Zoo's biggest elephant, Jingo, and will bring it to this country. What a splendid name for the biggest elephant. It must be a white elephant.

Here's the Standard Oil Doxology, as sung by William H. Crane:

Praise John, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him oil creatures here below,
Praise him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise William, too, but John the most.

A preacher of Jersey City proposes to prove that St. Patrick was a Baptist, because he baptized by immersion, and he thinks that the pope did not have anything to do with sending him to Ireland. That is no argument, however, Baptism by immersion was by no means abolished by the general church at the time of the good saint. Other sects can claim him with as much reason.

The Valparaiso Herald says that South America does not want the Monroe doctrine and that the South Americans can no longer courteously consent to be regarded by Europe as "Tarks." South America will have to have the Monroe doctrine whether it wants it or not and on the same principle that children have to have molasses and sulphur in spring—because it is good for them.

THE BUFFALO MURDER.

New York World.

The police in Buffalo seem bent upon surrounding their task with unnecessary difficulties by rash haste. The arrest of Miss Hutchinson and her two brothers of purposeless detention constituted a legal farce or an outrage according to individual viewpoint. Justice White very properly released the young woman, against whom no charge whatever was to have been made. One day's record in this difficult case chronicles no action of more interest than this retracing of steps which should never have been taken.

Boston Herald.

The methods of the district attorney and the Buffalo police in their hunt for the murderer of the man Burdick have been outrageous, and in some respects one is tempted to pronounce them infamous. They have been instrumental in publishing to the country the names of women temporarily under suspicion in a way that appears to be wholly unwarrantable. If any of these women are as bad as they have been represented to be, they are, nevertheless, entitled to be treated with more decency than they have experienced at the hands of the scandal-mongering officers who have done the best they could to ruin their reputation. Of course, if they are not vile nor guilty of the crime of murder, they have been treated contrary to all ideas of civilization, honor and courtesy.

Worcester Gazette.

Murder is not so often done as a result of social rottenness, but when it is, as it is in this case, the results are apt to be something to amaze the beholder, though education may have made him skeptical of virtue's reality. At the same time, it has a tendency to set off with fine effect the statistics of the divorce courts, emphasize the growing demoralization of a large proportion of society, give respectability another pronounced shock and altogether throw a light upon a condition of things, which, though sure death to all real nobility of living, passes as current coin among a good many people in a good many towns and cities of the whole United States.

Baltimore Sun.

These are "sad but glorious days" for the district attorney, the police and the detectives of Buffalo—"sad," because none of their theories in regard

to the identity of the person who murdered E. L. Burdick, a citizen of that town, is sustained by the developments; "glorious," because they apparently have the power to run amuck in Buffalo and arrest anybody who is suspected, with or without reason, to be the guilty party. A reign of terror exists in that town. Nobody knows when a cordon of police may be stretched around his house and strict watch kept upon his movements. Nobody can tell the past few years. The police with persons suspected of killing E. L. Burdick. An extraordinary state of affairs exists in Buffalo, and, judging by reports, the people of that city are getting very tired of the methods adopted by the police to solve the murder mystery.

St. Louis World.

There is an upper crust to society as vicious as the lower crust. The millionaire roue and libertine may be as base at heart as the low-down procurer. The painted woman of the streets is no lower than many a finer-grained virgin who hides in secret. One is vice in velvet; the other is vice in vulgar rags. When either a man or a woman thinks it possible to violate the sacred law of marriage and ignore the conventions of life, that man or woman is trading on dangerous ground. Sooner or later the rotten foundation will break through! Once started, the descent to Averna is an easy one. The police authorities are conversant with these things. They know very well what is going on behind the rich curtains of many a high-toned home.

Springfield Republican.

The Buffalo murder case now threatens to have the most unfortunate kind of an ending—a stark mystery. There have been too many of the sort within the past few years. The effect cannot be good. It is very much in society's interests that there be no mysteries in this sort of crime.

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