

DESERT EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, - MARCH 16, 1905.

GENERAL CONFERENCE

The Seventy-fifth annual Conference
of the Church of Jesus Christ of Lat-
ter-day Saints will convene on Thurs-
day, the 6th of April, and adjourn Fri-
day afternoon until Sunday morning,
and close Sunday afternoon.A general Priesthood meeting will
be held on Friday night, commencing
at 7:30.The special Priesthood meeting for the
General and Presiding Authorities of
the Church will be held in the Assem-
bly Hall on Saturday morning, at 10
o'clock.JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHONY H. LUND,
First Presidency.

TREAT THE MATTER FAIRLY!

Is it not about time that our local
contemporaries cease their hot-air
furnishings about the franchise for the
Light & Railway company? Why not
come down to solid ground and treat
the matter fairly and squarely? Why,
if they have been taking the right pos-
ition, has it been necessary for them to
repeat, constantly, allegations that they
are not true and which they cannot support
by proof? If the company which has
been the means of supplying this city,
even to its extreme limits, with the
electric light, and has also conducted
the street railroad system so that every
district of the city is furnished with
speedy transportation, why not present
the matter in its true form and quit
assailing the company with epithets
that are undeserved and that convey no
real information?The Desert News has refrained from
saying anything recently in relation to
this matter, thinking that perhaps a
comparison of the requests made of the
city council in the two propositions pre-
sented for its consideration, would
modify the fierceness of the assaults
made upon the existing company, and a
little common sense would dissipate the
vaporous effusions that have been sent
forth to agitate the public mind.Let us now look dispassionately at the
facts in this case. Some time ago the
city authorities found that in order to
complete arrangements for bringing in
to the city the waters of the Cotton-
woods in exchange for a canal supply,
they needed two pieces of property be-
longing to the Utah Light & Railway
company, which it had purchased and
held, at a large valuation. Application
was made to the company for terms on
which these properties could be ac-
quired by the municipality. This was
the beginning of the negotiations under
consideration. This important factor in
the sum of the case is kept back by the
local press, and it is continually as-
serted that the company is endeavor-
ing to make "a grab," a "graft" and to
obtain "something for nothing." There
is not a word of truth in the charge.
The people of this city who have been
stirred up to anxiety over the matter
should understand this distinctly.The city in the first place asked the
company to convey those properties for
a fair consideration. In the next
place, it was admitted by the city
authorities that the state of the ex-
chequer did not permit the ex-
penditure of money for this purpose. It
was not stated, perhaps, what the
city would be willing to give in the
place of cash for that which it desired
to acquire. It matters not which party
suggested the idea of an extension of
franchise or other privileges in ex-
change for those properties. The com-
pany took the matter under consid-
eration, and having acquired by pur-
chase at different times several fran-
chises from different parties and operat-
ing under them, desired that one fran-
chise covering them all should be ob-
tained, and also that an extension of
the time of those grants would be a
fair equivalent in lieu of money which
the city was not prepared to expend.
In view of these circumstances, the or-
dinance and petition which have caused
so many extravagant epithets were
formulated and presented.The notion that something new, and
monstrous, and extortionate and unre-
asonable was asked by the Light and
Railway company, was simply the in-
vention of its excited opponents. Fran-
chises have been granted to railway
companies here for a period of one
hundred years, without a note of dis-
approbation on the part of those shout-
ers against the proposition of the com-
pany so readily misrepresented. And fur-
ther those franchises were granted with-
out any such equivalent as that which
we have pointed out, and without any
pecuniary or other valuable recom-
pense. We heard of no outcry con-
cerning those franchises, nor do we
think any such furor was or is neces-
sary. We merely speak of them in re-
ference to the great blare of discordant
trumpets which have recently rent the
air from day to day.Franchisees for companies of the kind
now operating in this city have beengranted in many of the cities of the
Union for a period of one hundred
years, and quite a number of them are
made perpetual. To hear our neighbors
on this matter, one who is not posted
would be led to think that something
novel, shameful, extraordinary and dis-
honorable was in contemplation. They
ought to know and probably do know
that nothing of the kind was intended
or is now in view. The company simply
asks for what it wants, in trade for
that which the city wants, and there is
nothing in the nature of a "grab" on
either side. If the city wants the prop-
erties mentioned, it should be willing
to pay for them. If it has not the
money, then it can grant something
that will be accepted in the place of
cash. If the franchise extension asked
for is considered by the city too much
for the exchange, the city can state,
without temper and without knuckling
down to intemperate publications,
threats, demands, and absurd intimi-
dations, what is deemed fair com-
pensation for the properties it wishes to
acquire.As to the value of those properties,
the assailants of the company's propo-
sition have varied from time to time,
beginning at nothing, going on to
\$5,000 and wobbling about from one
set of figures to another. Now, the
truth is, that the majority of the di-
rectors of the Light and Railway
company placed the value of the two
power sites at \$100,000 as a reasonable
figure, while others declared they were
worth at the least \$200,000 to the com-
pany, and since the agitation over it
has occurred, a bona fide offer of \$100,-
000 cash down has been made for them
to the company. Whatever their actual
value may be is perhaps open to argu-
ment, but that it is great and important
there can be no rational dispute. It
should be understood, further, that the
company is giving and proposes to
continue to give to the city, \$3,500 a
year in lighting, and is also paying
\$25 per annum for each street-car op-
erated by the company. So that the
charge that it is seeking to gain some-
thing for nothing is a positive false-
hood, disgraceful to all who utter it.In view of these facts, how shame-
ful and ridiculous is the demand made
by the opponents of the Light and
Railway company, that a "bluff" propo-
sition should be at once taken up and
adopted by the city, in which the peti-
tioner modestly asks for a fifty years
franchise to establish a lighting plant
to take the cream of the business, with-
out offering a solitary cent for the
privilege! Some of the agitators have
claimed that the fifty years franchise
extension asked by the Utah Light and
Railway company, in lieu of money for
its properties that the city wants, is
worth \$5,000,000. If that is anything
like correct, how much is the fran-
chise worth to the person or company
that comes in now and asks for a new
fifty years franchise?How consistent are our contemporaries
in their queer position! The City
Council must not, on pain of deep
damnation, grant a fifty years fran-
chise to a bona fide existing operating
company, with lines extended to the
utmost limits of the city, for which it
is willing to pay, in the properties men-
tioned and the lighting furnished and
other payments to the city, but it is
urged to grant a fifty years franchise to
an individual, "his heirs and assigns," for
nothing, that he is not to be required
to use until some time in 1961! There
is in it no agreement or requirement
that the remote districts of the city
shall be lighted by this up-in-the-air
company, nor intimation that it is to
be operated in any other part but a
few streets named, in the central por-
tion of town. A grand idea, is it not?
As to the cost to the consumer, it will
be found on close investigation that,
considering the extent of the service,
with its poles, wires and appurtenances
stretching out to long distances, and
the general supply to the users, the
rates charged by the present company
are moderate, will compare favorably
with the rates charged in other cities
in this locality, and that the howl
that has been raised concerning them
is without reason and without truth.
It is false also to say that the com-
pany demands in its new franchise an
increase of prices. The fact is that it
provides for a decrease, as anybody
may learn by reading the ordinance
proposed. This is a matter that may
be further and fully investigated by
comparisons of figures for which we
have not sufficient space just now to
devote.We ask our readers to ponder calmly
and rationally on that which we have
here presented. This article is written
on our own responsibility, without any
request from the Light and Railway
company or any one connected therewith.
Our sole desire is the welfare of
the community. The City Council
should not be swayed by the undue
methods resorted to for the purpose
of over-awing the members and pand-
ering to a senseless sentiment worked
up by agitators. The people of Salt
Lake City will support those council-
men who show that they are fair and
consistent and willing to stand up for
the right.
It is utterly untrue that 95 per cent
of the citizens are against the company
which is simply making a bargain that
it believes to be fair and square. Many
people have been deceived by the loud
falsehoods of the enemies of the com-
pany, and some have no doubt expressed
opinions arising from the rash rum-
ors and untruthful utterances con-
cerning the entire measure. But that
these have been widespread we emphat-
ically deny, and we are sure that the
great body of the people of Salt Lake,
when they understand the truth situ-
ation of affairs, will desire to do that
which is just to all parties concerned.
That is all we ask for, and we believe
that the company expects nothing
more, but is not likely to agree to any-
thing very much less. The city is not
bound to give all that is demanded,
the company is not compelled to part
with its property for nothing. Let us
be fair and reasonable in all things!

THE JAPANESE PERIL.

There is some alarm on the Pacific
coast on account of a supposed Japa-
nese peril, immigration on a large scale
is feared, after the war. The San Fran-cisco Chronicle is voicing this senti-
ment. The Japs, we are told, are far
more alert than the Chinese. When
they enter an industry the white men
have to leave it. An Alameda corre-
spondent is quoted who says that the
Japanese have taken possession of the
shoe repairing business in that city to
the exclusion of white men. The Japa-
nese, the Chronicle claims, can and does
do work at prices which get the trade,
and the white man is driven out. The
market gardening industry, we are fur-
ther told, has to some extent been oc-
cupied by Chinese, but in the main it
has been held by white men, mostly
Europeans, accustomed to spade cul-
ture, but having in them the making
of good American citizens. In some
places this is rapidly passing to the
Japanese, because their living expenses
are nominal.The same argument is advanced
against all immigration of laborers. To
meet the demands of all interests, a
Chinese wall, it appears, must be erect-
ed against the invading "hordes" of
aliens. But that, we presume, cannot
be done by a country committed to the
open-door policy in other parts of the
world.With regard to Japanese immigration,
we do not believe there is any imme-
diate necessity for the adoption, by
this country, of a policy that would
engender enmity in Japan. That coun-
try contemplates, it is given out, the
colonization of Korea and Manchuria.
The soldiers now on the Asiatic main-
land will be offered inducements to set-
tle there. If this report is true, the
Japanese people will be attracted to
Asia rather than America, and the
"peril" of a Japanese immigration here
would be small, indeed. And no one
can doubt that the Japanese govern-
ment contemplates the inundation of
the conquered territory, in order to
keep it, actually, even if part of it is,
nominally, restored to China. In Man-
churia and Korea, Japan will find a
welcome outlet for her surplus popu-
lation, and there is not much danger from
Japanese immigration here, until those
vast stretches of land become over-
populated.

AS TO THE INDIANS.

Montezuma, an educated Apache, is
quoted as having taken exception to
some popular notions about the Indians.
He characterizes the alleged "fighting
tendency" of the race as a myth, and
denies that the educated Indian does,
as a rule, relapse into semi-savagery
on returning to the tribe. The Indian,
he says, in general is a complex being,
not different fundamentally from the
white man. Therefore he believes the
younger generation should be dis-
persed through the country and made
to become independent and self-sus-
taining as rapidly as possible.Similar views are held by students of
Indian conditions. Prof. Farrand, of
the Columbia university, says the evi-
dence tends to show that such mental
differences as occur between Indians
and whites are "due to experience and
environment rather than to innate dif-
ferences of mental capacity." More-
over, the few cases in which an Indian
has been removed from his home at an
early age and educated amid civilized
surroundings show "no particular inferi-
ority in mental capacity." He be-
lieves that the destiny of the Indian is
to be absorbed by the white race, and
this he does not regard as undesirable,
for the half-bloods, he says, seem "well
adapted to survive." Any deterioration
such as sometimes appears he attributes
to the "unfortunate social environ-
ment" and not to the physiological
mixture of blood.The facts upon which this reasoning
is based must be considered as evi-
dence of the unity of origin of the Red
man and the White race. Were they
essentially different, this would appear
in mental capacity as well as in the
color of the skin.The Muckishla is never used for re-
treating.Oyama belongs to the yellow races,
but there is not a streak of yellow in
him.The commissioner of education's last
report makes no mention of Coit's Fin-
ancial School.Cassie Chadwick wept when she was
taken to her old home to say farewell.
Tears, idle tears.Kansas oil testing below thirty is not
standard oil, so will not be refined by
the Standard Oil company.The Russian loan has been postponed.
Which shows that in financial matters
Russia cannot go at a loan.The legislators cannot be blamed if
they began to think that all work and
no pay makes Jack a dull boy.Hope of ratifying the San Domingo
treaty has been abandoned for the pre-
sent. A sort of not dead but sleep-
ing case.The King of Italy is said to have the
most valuable collection of coins in the
world. They are so valuable that coin
could not buy them.Professor Giddings of Columbia says
that divorce laws should be less string-
ent than they are. How could they if
they are to be at all?Scientists have announced that rad-
ium is a sure cure for snake bite. This
is good news, for being so cheap it is
within the reach of all.Should the czar attempt a royal pro-
gress from St. Petersburg to Moscow it
might turn out to be a waste through a
slaughter house to an open grave.Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholasievitch
goes to the Far East to assume com-
mand of the Russian armies, and Kuro-
patkin makes his final retirement.Services commemorative of the in-
auguration of President Roosevelt have
been held in St. Joseph's church, Paris.
Would not saints in memory of Alton
B. Parker have been more appropriate?Kuropatkin claims to have repulsed
an attack by the Japanese, who left athousand dead upon the field. That is
too thin. That claim would not pass
even with a pension bureau.Speaker Till of the Missouri assem-
bly says that he will even vote for a
Democrat before the state shall go
without a senator. A very sensible con-
clusion. This standing by party to the
hurt of all parties and the people is fol-
ly.Senator Heyburn of Idaho favors the
annexation of San Domingo, and advo-
cated it in the Senate yesterday. Sen-
ator Heyburn would do at first what
will probably be done at last if the
United States ever undertakes the
management of the island's financial
affairs. With Senator Heyburn it is
foreseen; with others it may prove to
be hindsight.We have received a copy of Parthen-
on, a weekly paper published in Bos-
ton in the Greek language, for the ben-
efit of Greeks in this country. It is
printed on heavy paper with clear
types, and has fine illustrations. The
publication is issued in the interest
of pan-Hellenism, and it should be lib-
erally patronized. It appears at a
time when important events may be
looked for in the "near east."

THE STANFORD MYSTERY.

Sacramento Bee.

The murder of Mrs. Stanford is one
of the most cruel and atrocious ever
committed. It is hard to believe that
any one, and particularly any mem-
ber of her own household, could be so
heartless and so wicked as to do this
deed. But all the facts and circum-
stances preclude the idea of suicide.
And recent developments as to the
practice of grafting methods by cer-
tain of her employees tend to furnish
a possible motive for the crime. Be-
fore, a former butler of Mrs. Stanford,
has confessed himself guilty of these
practices, and has declared he shared
his "commissions" with Miss Berner,
her secretary. So it appears that had
either of these persons been apprehen-
sive of a disclosure to Mrs. Stanford
of the facts, and feared discharge, or
being cut out of her will as the result
of such discovery on her part, there
would have been a motive for murder.

Fresno Democrat.

People are becoming tired of the con-
flicting stories and dispatches about
the late Mrs. Leland Stanford. If this
good and great hearted woman was
poisoned, everyone will regret that her
long life was so ruthlessly shortened,
and if the perpetrator of the deed can
be discovered and convicted he or she
will receive no sympathy. But until
something definite is known, these col-
umns of household and neighborhood
tattle dragged into print are disgust-
ing.

TEA

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we don't half-know it; half
of us don't.Write for our Knowledge Book, A Shilling &
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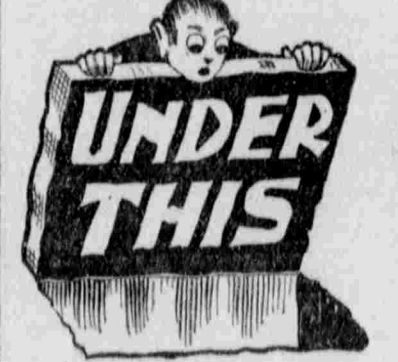
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