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SALT LAKE CITY, - APRIL 5, 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, Monday, April 4, and Wednesday,
April 5, commencing each day at
10 a. m. A general attendance of
the officers and members is requested
and expected.JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHON H. LUND,
First Presidency.

THIS MEANS YOU!

The movement by the Commercial
club, the Health department and the
local press towards the cleaning up of
this city, is to be commended and pushed
along. The Deseret News has annually
urged the residents here, as soon as
the spring opened, to make a thorough
renovation of the house and its
surroundings, the removal and destruction
of all waste and decaying material, and
the inspection by the proper officers of
all places where rubbish and offensive
substances are likely to have accumulated,
so that they may be taken away and
cremated. This advice has been occasionally
repeated through every summer season, and
we are glad to hear the echoes of these
warnings wherever they come from. We
hope they will reverberate through all
the different districts of the city, and
wake up the careless and the thoughtless
to proper action.This ought to be one of the very
healthiest places on the continent.
With the pure air of these mountains,
the facilities for cleanliness, and the
wide streets and open spaces, there
should be no cause for epidemics, or
any breeding places for noxious germs.
Every householder should see to it
that all deposits of matter likely to
fester in the sun or become dangerous
in the home, are cleared away and
where necessary that disinfectants are
liberally used. Coppers will make
sinks sweet and free from odor; chlorine
of lime can be used for a similar
purpose wherever needed; lime wash
for cellars and outhouses will help to
freshen them in appearance and reality.
Cleanliness is a part of godliness.
Health is promoted by it and sunlight
adds to its potency. Disease germs
multiply in filth and delight in darkness.Clean up the city and purge it from
infectious matter! Let every resident
do his and her part in the general
purification, and the coming summer
will show the effects of the movement.
In the measurable absence of those
disorders that bring pain, distress and
death. Let everybody give heed to the
instructions of the State and city
boards of health, and the whole
community will be the better for the
advice. Now is the time to begin the
work, and we renew our frequent counsel
in support of sanitation. Clean up the
city!

HOODLUMISM.

We add our protest to that of our local
contemporaries against the hoodlums
that is permitted to run rampant in
some portions of this city. If self-restraint
is not sufficiently taught by parents,
and exercised by the youth of our
community, repressive measures should
be instituted, and if necessary extra
vigilance should be pursued by the
police and severity by the magistrates.
Stringent measures ought to be taken
by those who are supposed to be in
control of the boys who are reckless,
to keep them off the streets at night.
The curfew whistle is sounded, but
the regulation of which it is the signal
is not closely enforced. What is the
use of the noise if it signifies nothing
but wind? Let the young folks understand
that if they do not heed its warning
and go home, they will be "run in"
by the guardians of the public peace,
and one means of reform will be in
operation. The great influence, however,
in this direction is parental. Fathers
and mothers of unruly sons, see to it
that by words and acts of kindness,
and good counsel and example, they are
led in the right way, and if needful
add that sternness and correction
which applied at home, may save them
from public shame and public punishment.
Anyhow, let hoodlums be suppressed
and the peace and rights of the community
be maintained!

PROF. NELSON'S BOOK.

Under date of March 29, Mr. B. F.
Cummings writes Prof. Nelson from
New York some interesting news concern-ing his manuscript. As will be remembered
by a former report published in the
"News," the Funk & Wagnall's reader
reported very favorably on this work,
but the firm decided against publishing
it because of anti-Mormon prejudice. Will
this occur again? Here is Mr. Cummings's
letter:"Yesterday I made about the tenth
call at The Macmillan's and was informed
by Mr. Walton of their business department
that the reader who had examined your
manuscript had rendered a highly favorable
report on it."Mr. Walton said the question now
was whether the house would be willing
to publish a pro-Mormon book, and no one
in the establishment was willing to decide
it in the absence of Mr. Brit, the president,
who will return from Europe April 2. Within
two or three days thereafter I shall be
informed of the decision of the house,
whether or not they will publish the work."

BEHIND THEIR TIMES.

The Louisville Courier-Journal endorses
a statement by a Harrisburg, Pa., minister,
that the Book of Mormon is but an amplified
copy of the so-called Spaulding manuscript,
for which Sidney Rigdon was responsible.
The Journal says in part:"After the Book of Mormon was
published by Smith she, (Mrs. Spaulding)
published a statement of the facts, and
claimed that Rigdon had copied her husband's
manuscript. It has been shown that after
Rigdon got the copy of Spaulding's book,
he quitted the printing office and began
to preach the doctrine of the book. In 1829
he became associated with Smith, and the
contention is that he gave him the manuscript
from which he read off the pretended translation
of the inscription on the gold plates, with
such changes and additions as suited his
purposes. The Spaulding manuscript and
the printed Book of Mormon were compared
and their substantial identity established,
though it is not denied that there are
discrepancies. All this was fully threshed
out by public discussion sixty-five years
ago. Old copies of newspapers and magazines
of that period and some years later contain
excellent accounts of the testimony given."It will be seen by this extract that
the minister and the Courier-Journal are
behind their times. They rely on the
old straw "threshed out by public discussion
sixty-five years ago," in utter oblivion
of more recently discovered facts. They are
backnumbers on this question, just as
moss-grown as the old preacher who to the
last insisted that "the sun do move."The Spaulding manuscript theory has
been abandoned by all whose opinion is
entitled to consideration, for the simple
reason that the manuscript, as is now
well known, has been found and published,
and that it completely upsets that absurd
theory. The document was discovered by
Mr. Fairchild, president of the Oberlin
college, Ohio. On the authority of the
fables that were circulated 65 years ago,
and sworn to by false witnesses, the Journal
says that "the Spaulding manuscript and
the printed Book of Mormon were compared
and their substantial identity established."
The manuscript was "lost." By whom
was the comparison made, and when? The
fact is that when the document finally
was found, it was seen to be in every
detail too, different from the Book of
Mormon.Those who endeavor to trace this
sacred volume to the Spaulding manuscript,
are 65 years behind their time. Modern
skeptics vary the fable and say that the
original of the Book of Mormon was not
that Spaulding story, which no one, however,
has ever seen, and that it was doctored
up by Sidney Rigdon. This guess has been
ventured, since the old Spaulding myth
was proved false.Doubters must, of course, account,
the best way they can, for facts which
they refuse to believe. It is not so long
since they accounted for the New Testament
by supposing it to be the work of crafty
"priests," for selfish advantage, or for
state purposes. That old notion is not
more false than the other, that Spaulding
was the author of the Book of Mormon.
All the world admits that the Prophet
Joseph could not have written that book,
at the time it appeared. History proves
that neither Spaulding nor Rigdon had
anything to do with the authorship.
Whence came the volume? No wonder
the world is disturbed at it. It appears
like the letters on the wall of the palace
of Belshazzar with a solemn warning
in the midst of revelry. No wonder
so many try not to see it.

NEW BRITISH POLICY?

The British expedition into Tibet is
reported to have met serious resistance.
It had to fight its way through
crowds of armed Tibetans. Former
accounts of the people inhabiting the
regions through which Colonel Younghusband
is now marching, represent them
as lacking every soldierly quality,
but it appears that this time they were
fearless, fierce, and swooped down
upon the unsuspecting British soldiers,
with the suddenness of a tiger springing
upon its prey. It did not avail them
anything. They were simply moved down
by the modern arms of the invaders,
of the effects of which they were ignorant.
In ten minutes the affair was over.
Hundreds of Tibetans were slain.One of the important results of this
encounter is a bid by Russia for British
friendship. Russian diplomacy is now
said to be offering Great Britain a
free hand in Tibet, in exchange for a
similar privilege enjoyed by Russia in
Manchuria, and for an outlet through the
Dardanelles, and the Persian gulf. The
Russian newspapers are said to have
made a complete summersault with
regard to their sentiment toward Great
Britain. But a definite rapprochement
is, of course, out of the question at
present, while Great Britain's ally is
at war with Russia, and no one can
foresee what the outcome of that war
will be. If Japan wins, Great Britain
will not forsake her, for Russia. If
Russia carries the day, it will be found
convenient to have laid the foundation
for an understanding.The attachments of nations are about
as variable as the past month's weather,
and the changes come about as suddenly
and unexpectedly as did theMarch storms. But this talk of a
Russo-British alliance must be the un-
kindest cut yet aimed at Japan.

DEVELOPMENT OF PALESTINE

The complications in Asia, both eastern
and western, has served to direct
attention to Palestine, and Syria generally,
and it is seen that a slow, but steady
and sure, development is taking place
there, giving reason for the assurance
that the country will before long assume
the importance it had in the days of its
ancient splendor. According to consular
reports, railroad-building is one of the
great features of present activity, and it
is well known that the railroad is a most
potent factor in the advancement of
civilization. The railroad from Jaffa to
Jerusalem, which has been in operation for
twelve years, is about to be extended, with
lines to Gaza, Jericho, and up to Damascus.
The Turks are building from Damascus
to the Mecca line, for the benefit of
pilgrims, and, no doubt, also as a matter
of strategy. A new feeder has been
opened to the road between Beirut and
Damascus. This will eventually extend to
the Euphrates.The introduction of modern agricultural
machinery is another feature, which is
sure to have a redeeming influence upon
the country. Thousands of acres of fertile
land have been lying idle, or almost so,
because the inhabitants are not familiar
with any but the most primitive methods.
The modern machinery will be the
reclamation of such land, and the establishment
of a better government, for improved
agricultural and industrial conditions will
be followed by more modern government
methods. That has been the experience
of Egypt, since the opening of the Suez
canal. Valuable interests will not be left
to the uncertain guardianship of Turkish
government methods. Already now trade
is greatly increasing in Palestine. If the
railroad from the Mediterranean eastward
to India, and to the Pacific is built,
Palestine would become a most important
country. Such a line would compete with
the trans-Siberian railway. It would
traverse countries teeming with population.
The theory on which it is projected
presupposes the trans-shipment of goods
from the Orient to some Syrian port and
that would at once bring the country into
prominence.The logical result would be the liberation
of that country from Turkish rule. And
why not? It is argued that the autonomy
of Turkey has been a necessity, all these
centuries because a sentinel was needed on
the road to India, against Russian advance.
But if such a sentinel is needed Palestine
in the hands of the Jews, would be a
more reliable outpost of civilization. And
to that race the interests of the world in
that region can be entrusted with safety.
The general impression among those who
have studied the oriental situation is that
some such arrangement is coming. The
entire country, it is said, will shortly
become too valuable to the civilized world,
to make the present political status possible.
And if a change is to come, how can the
objections founded on the diversified
interests of the various powers be better,
than by giving to the Jews the guardianship
that no single power will be permitted by
the rest, to assume for all.

Most booms are built upon the sands.

A bird in the market is worth two
in barn yard.Financially speaking an unemployed
delegate is worth two pledged ones.The British at home are ashamed of
the "great" British victory in Tibet.
And well they may.Port Arthur is a regular Phoenix
for recovering after being bombarded
and burned so many times.The Louisiana Purchase is to be
opened with an ode. In all likelihood
it will be closed with an owed.General Kuropatkin is said to be
playing a waiting game. All things
come to those who know how to wait.If General Miles takes the Prohibition
nomination he may say a long farewell
to all his greatness in a presidential
way.Since the decision in the anthracite
coal trust case, Mr. W. R. Hearst looks
upon the United States Supreme Court
as his "me too."A Boston paper tells learnedly and
at length how the sea became salt.
Grimm told it once and for all in the
story of Little Mill.The little son of Professor Wiener of
Harvard will be prepared to enter college
by the time he is ten years old. He
should make a ten strike in learning.The Dutch have killed over five hundred
Achenese with a loss to themselves
of less than a score. Truthfully
characterized such things are but wanton
wholesale murder.The British government is horrified at
the alleged outrages committed in the
Congo Free State, but is highly
glad over the great victory of British
power over the Tibetans.Columbia is getting desperate. If she
cannot win in the courts she proposes
to appeal to the arbitrament of arms.
It may yet be necessary to put her
in a straight jacket."Medical Talk" says that lettuce will
prevent diphtheria, and that no lettuce
eters have ever been known to contract
smallpox. Lettuce follow this regimen
and be healthy and happy.The "News" has been asked to call the
attention of its readers to the summer
school of the University of California,
to be held between June 27 and August 6.
The faculty comprises specialistsfrom the leading universities of this
country, and some foreign countries,
and the summer session is planned
primarily for persons of maturity who
wish the stimulus of living for a time
in a university atmosphere, and of instruction
from leaders in scholarship competent
to bring their students into touch with
the latest developments of knowledge
and method in their special fields. It is
a notable opportunity of which students
from near and far take advantage.

COMMENTS STILL COME.

Missoula Missoulian.

Perhaps something has been gained
by the exposure of Mormonism which
has attracted general attention, but it
perhaps could have been accomplished in
a less conspicuous manner; that is,
taking it for granted that the government
wants to secure the punishment of persons
who violate the law of the land by
practicing polygamy. The senatorial
investigation, taking the latitude it has,
is farcical so far as dealing with the
subject in hand is concerned.

Spokane Spokesman.

At least they cannot charge President
Smith with being mixed up in this
scheme of race suicide.

Seattle Times.

The Indians of the United States refer
to President Roosevelt as the "Great
Father." The newspapers of the country
are now using that term to apply to
"President Smith" of the Mormon Church.

The Crisis.

If it can be proven that Senator
Smoot has violated the provisions of the
enabling act passed by Congress, either
directly or indirectly, then he should
be dealt with as a lawbreaker. But, on
the other hand, even should it be proven
that the Mormon Church still believes that
the provisions of that act prohibiting
polygamy or plural marriages is wrong
and not in accord with the truth, or as
they would express it, "the will of God
as revealed to His prophet, Joseph Smith,
Jr.," and should it also be proven that
Senator Smoot also entertains that same
view as an apostle of that church, and so
teaches, that is no reason for debaring
him from the office to which he has been
duly elected, providing he does no more
than seek to change public opinion to his
way of thinking, and obeys the letter of
the law, as long as it exists, though it
be adverse to his way of thinking.

Spokane Review.

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 peculiar 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 now
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 pretense 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 acquire under them.
If Congress wishes to investigate the
Mormon Church, it probably has a right
to do it; 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.PURE
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