

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 18, 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 H. WINDER,
ANTHON H. LUND,
First Presidency.

CHANGE OF FAST 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 Sun-
day in March, 1903, in those stakes and
wards where the officers and mem-
bers in large numbers will attend the
Annual Conference. This will apply
particularly to the Salt Lake Stake of
Zion and adjoining places. The Pres-
idents of Stakes and Bishops at distant
points will use their own judgment as
to making the change for this occasion.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN H. WINDER,
ANTHON H. LUND,
AS TO OUR WATER SUPPLY.

Prospects are excellent this year for
a good supply of water. That is to say,
the deposits of snow furnish ample
storage of solidified material, which will
flow down in due season for irrigation
and other purposes. In addition to that,
the ground is receiving frequent soak-
age which, when the frost is entirely
eliminated, will penetrate to a depth
that will afford moisture to the roots of
crop vegetation as it rises to the sur-
face from the warmth developed by the
rays of the summer sun. The irrigation
outlook is therefore most encouraging.

Salt Lake City is not likely to suffer
during the season approaching, from
lack of an adequate water supply.
Probably there will be plenty for all
needful purposes during the present
year. This, however, should not stop
practical projects to provide against
future contingencies and to secure fu-
ture supplies. The City Council ought
to proceed with measures to erect res-
ervoirs, and in every feasible way en-
deavor to increase, conserve and fairly
distribute the waters within its control,
for the benefit of our growing popu-
lation.

Nothing in that direction will be
hastened or improved by unjust asper-
sions upon the council, or by untruth-
ful assertions concerning our water
supplies. Capital is not likely to be at-
tracted to this point by statements like
this, made by a city paper.

"Salt Lake City stands today just
where she was years ago, with about
one-fourth enough water to supply
present demands. Not one yard in
twenty has a spear of grass or a flower.
Half the time water cannot be elevated
above the second story floor, and baths
are at a premium."

That which is not positively false in
these sentences is gross exaggeration.
Although the volume of water has been
short for several successive seasons, owing
to the drought experienced through-
out the entire arid region, the real
difficulties experienced have been
but of short duration and never
to the extent described above. The
notion that if a scheme devised to over-
turn the entire system of municipal
government had prevailed, the ele-
ments would be so ordered as to yield
water in abundance, might do for hun-
dreds in pushing the point, but it is too
silly for serious argument. Continued
drought is not to be prevented by legis-
lation, nor can the clouds be compelled
to drop moisture by commercial or fi-
nancial combinations.

All that could possibly be effected by
any sort of a commission, can be
brought about by a City Council, and
the wants and wishes of the people can
be met and granted through the means
that the laws now provide. The power
is in the hands of the citizens to ob-
tain what is needed. If they will ex-
ercise it, everything necessary can be ob-
tained; if they will not, they must suffer
the consequences.

While we are enjoying the benefits of
the bountiful supply of this now-rich-
ness, treasured up in the heights of the
hills, we should be preparing for the
dry times likely to follow. There are
borings that can be made in City Creek
and Parley's canyons, which will uti-
lize the undercurrents there and in-
crease the volume of the streams great-
ly. There are spots where reservoirs
can be constructed for storage, at much
less expense than would be entailed if
some of the schemes projected are car-
ried out. One place in particular we
have pointed out several times; that is
the mouth of Lamb's canyon in Par-
ley's. A stream of pure water comes
down at that point, and there is a solid

bottom impervious to percolation, and
a place for a wall and dam that would
cost but little to build. It is a marvel
that this spot should be ignored in look-
ing for reservoir sites. The Liberty
Park wells might also be utilized.

Other means of supply can be found
and that, too, without plunging the
municipality into enormous debts,
which the taxpayers would certainly
refuse to authorize, even if the rejected
measure had become a law. It
is folly to grumble over that
defunct scheme, and very wrong
to misrepresent conditions here, be-
cause of disgruntled feelings over fail-
ure to foist it upon the people. Water
of great volume and value runs to
waste here all the year round. This ex-
travagance must be stopped. If the
present city authorities do not move in
the right direction or rapidly enough
to suit the people, others can be chosen
in their place.

It is gratifying to learn that the lake
is gradually rising towards its old level.
That furnishes an object lesson to all
some educators. It proves that natural
supplies have been scant for several
years, causing the calamity of poor
habiting at Saltair, and that nature not
at or human schemes is at work, to
restore that which was lost and make
our lake resort once more a "joy" and
the pavilion still "a thing of beauty."

With the recurrence of probable wet
seasons, we must not neglect our op-
portunities to provide for the future.
Nor should we expect impossibilities
from any body or set of officials. We
should encourage improvement and ap-
preciate that which is done for the pub-
lic benefit. It is not true that we
stand today where we were many years
ago. A great deal has been done with
the means raised by the last issue of
water bonds. The good work must go
on. That which is needed cannot be ef-
fected without funds. But we need not
rush headlong into inextricable debt.
We can move prudently, and conduct
public business on the economic prin-
ciple that enter into successful private
business. Let us recognize the good ac-
complished and render it possible to
achieve through legitimate channels all
that is needed to be done.

TWO IMPORTANT TREATIES.

At last the treaty with Colombia has
been approved. The Senate of the
United States almost unanimously sus-
tained the President's action, and we
may now confidently look for the pro-
secution of the great project desired so
long, by which the narrow neck of land
that lies between the two magnificent
seas will be severed, and the Atlantic
and Pacific oceans will be welded, to
the joy of navigation and the advan-
tage of the world's commerce. The ex-
tra session of the Senate has not been
called in vain. It is gratifying to know
that Utah's votes counted in the de-
sired direction.

Probably the Cuban treaty will also
be ratified. It may not pass with the
same majority as that which confirmed
the treaty now passed, but it will no
doubt be speedily put through, and the
two chief purposes of the session will
be accomplished.

We do not believe this will materially
injure the beet sugar industry of the
United States. It is now on a firm
footing and has risen beyond the reach
of the waters of disaster. Cuba will
reap some benefits and this nation can
afford to be magnanimous toward a
people whom it delivered from the yoke
of Spain. The submission of the treaty
to the House for the action of the
whole Congress at the next session, will
doubtless hasten action in the Senate
and the adjournment of the extra ses-
sion this day.

ABOUT SOCIALISM.

Report has it that the Duchess of
Sutherland has become interested in
social reforms, and has identified her-
self with the socialist propaganda. She
is said to be a talented author, and
has taken much interest in practical
politics.

The word "Socialism" has a harsh
sound, because it suggests the over-
throw of an established social order
and the confusion that would be inevit-
able should the upheaval come sud-
denly, like a tidal wave. But there are
several kinds of "Socialism," and much
that is properly "co-operation" on a
large scale is called "Socialism." A per-
son can be a "Socialist" in the meaning
of the term without being a revolu-
tionist, or in any way dangerous to
society.

The latter kind of "Socialism" is very
well exemplified in Belgium, where
there now are said to exist no less than
1,600 co-operative societies, including
credit associations, mercantile and in-
dustrial organizations. There are co-
operative drug stores, creameries, brew-
eries, shoe and furniture factories,
groceries, coal depots and markets.
There are also old age insurance so-
cieties that give pensions to all mem-
bers over 60 years who have been mem-
bers at least twenty years. Sometimes
they provide free doctors and free med-
icines.

The movement in Belgium started in
1839 in Ghent, when a workman, Ed-
ward Anseele, began an experiment
with a co-operative bakery. In 1897 they
were producing in that city alone ten
million loaves of bread, and about 100,000
francs were credited in six months to
the purchasers, as their share of the
profits. The membership in 1899 was
18,000 heads of families, representing
about 100,000 people.

The kind of "Socialism" that binds
the members of the human family to-
gether in combined effort for the com-
mon benefit must commend itself to all.
That is "Mormonism" too, as far as it
is applied to temporal affairs. It is a
step toward the realization of the great
ideal that has always stood before the
greatest and the purest of men of all
ages and generations, as the final des-
tiny of the human family—a universal
brotherhood.

IN THE SPIRIT OF TOLSTOI.

Opinions of the practical value of the
Czar's reform decree, vary greatly.
Oscar L. Strauss, a former minister to
Turkey, is quoted as follows:
"If the Czar's decree as reported
means what the language indicates, it

will usher in a new era for Russia.
Russia has been to take a long step
forward in the march of civilization
several years before the death of the
late Czar. This was generally known
and felt, and made his untimely end a
deplorable calamity for the suffering
millions in that vast empire."

Prof. Gethell, one of the leaders of
the Zionist movement in this country,
seems to doubt the sincerity of the new
movement. He says in part:

"One feels like smiling at the some-
what naive statement in regard to the
principles of toleration laid down by the
fundamental laws of the Russian em-
pire. They may have been laid
down, but they have never been taken
up and put into practice. While all
other foreign persuasions and religions
are mentioned in a general way, the
only specific mention refers to the im-
provement of the orthodox rural clergy.
This was, of course, to have been ex-
ecuted from the Czar, who is the nomi-
nal head of the Russian church. As
regards his own people, the Jews, they
may or may not be included among
those to whom liberty is to be granted."

Undoubtedly the Emperor is quite
sincere, whether it will be possible for
him to carry his plans out, or not. Some
time ago he invited prominent Russians
to give their opinion as to the needs
of the empire. If we are not mistaken,
Tolstoi made use of that opportunity,
and outlined what he considered the
people now needed. He made the fol-
lowing suggestions, among others:

"Free the peasants from the neces-
sity of purchasing passports for travel
to move and also from those com-
pulsory obligations laid upon them, such
as furnishing horses for government
officials and so forth."
"Abolish the shameful corporal pun-
ishment which has been retained only
for the peasants."
"Cease putting in force martial law
which gives the population into the
power of corrupt and arbitrary of-
ficials."

"Make education as accessible to the
peasants as to those of higher social
rank and allow people of all national-
ities and creeds to attend school."
"Abolish all restraint on religious free-
dom, including laws forbidding the
opening of dissenting churches and those
prohibiting families from bringing up
their children in the faith which they
desire."

Tolstoi asserted that these reforms
would pacify the people, and stop the
crimes that will be committed, if the
government continues to act in a tyran-
nical manner. The Emperor has
evidently taken his cue from these
suggestions, and announced his de-
termination to grant as much as pos-
sible. How this will benefit the people
remains for the future to reveal. But
the march of a people toward freedom
cannot be stopped. It may be retarded
occasionally, but obstacles will be over-
come and the progress will continue.

Rulers do well not to dam the flood,
but clear the course and guide it in
the right channel. For if it is obstruct-
ed, the waters will in time gather and
burst all obstacles, and then there will
be raging floods and destruction. That
is the history of nations struggling
for human rights.

Tomorrow the sun may be shining
but it is not so today.

"To cure a cold in a single day" usu-
ally takes about a week.

Strange, isn't it, that when suicides
increase suicides are fewer.

Judge Adams is monarch of all he
surveys, and he surveys a good deal.

What kind of a disgrace does a man
escape by committing suicide to escape
it?

And now the amateur gardener may
be seen filling the earth. He usually
has a rakish appearance.

The defense of ex-Mayor Ames of
Minnesota will be insanity. There
certainly was method in his madness.

The grip, it is said, can be communi-
cated by kissing. But it is worse to
get it without any palliative whatever.

Germany has got the first install-
ment of the Venezuelan indemnity. It
was hard earned if not well earned money.

Charles M. Schwab has returned from
the face of the waters, and it is said
in good health. May his health exceed
his wealth!

So much has he done for the Louisi-
ana Purchase exposition that in Mis-
souri they call the ex-governor Francis
the First.

The Jersey City preacher who was
going to prove that St. Patrick was a
Baptist, missed a great opportunity
yesterday to establish his claim.

Shemrock III has been launched, and
Sir Thomas Lipton feels very hopeful
of lifting the America's cup. Tea cups
will be all he will hit for a long, long
time.

Minister Bowen's visit to the British,
Italian and German embassies to make
inquiries about the progress of the pro-
tocol negotiations, indicates that the
three powers are trying how not to do
it. And they are succeeding very well.

President James, of Northwestern
University, declares that most of the
railroad managers don't know their
business. Possibly, Dean Swift
don't know logic but as he told the pro-
fessors he managed to argue pretty
well.

The miners' strike in Cripple Creek
is a regrettable thing, as all strikes
are. It means loss of wages to the
men, loss to the mine owners, and
worst of all the engendering of hostile
feelings between employers and em-
ployees. There is nothing harder to
remove than bad blood.

A Brooklyn judge has just sentenced
two women to ten months in the peni-
tentiary for using improper language
on the streets. It is a just sentence
and should be applied to men in simi-
lar cases, for what is sauce for the
goose is sauce for the gander.

The appellate division of the supreme
court of New York has handed down
a decision which declares in effect, that
a colored man has a right to expect that
a white bootblack will on demand,
shine his shoes. He will generally have
to content himself with the right and
let the shine go.

The Buffalo tragedy ought to be a
powerful sermon on morality. One man
was murdered; another was killed in
an automobile accident, perhaps by
suicide, and one woman is dead, by the

same accident, while the happiness of
others are ruined for all time. And all
this is the result of the breaking of the
laws of God and man, made for the
regulation of the conduct of man and
woman toward each other. It is one of
the lessons that are always given, but
which fools disregard, until they them-
selves are made to feel the punishment
fully always brings with it. It is a les-
son the young should take to heart,
and regulate their lives by always.

REFORMS IN RUSSIA.

Chicago Record-Herald.

The details of these reforms are still
to be worked out, but the officials of
the empire must respect the most un-
mistakable assertion of the czar's in-
tentions. The decree is perhaps the
most important in Russia since Alexan-
der II's emancipation of the serfs. Cer-
tainly it is a worthy act from the au-
thority that gave the world 'The Hague
peace tribunal, but it makes his atti-
tude toward Finland all the more aston-
ishing and regrettable.

Chicago News.

Since the emancipated serfs received
lands from the government to be owned
in common and redeemed by payments
from the annual profits the Russian
peasant has had a hard time of it.
Poverty, ignorance and enforced labor
under the communal system have been
his lot. Of adequate and intelligent
representative local government he has
had little. The czar now calls for the
"strengthening of the foundations of
family, school and public life" and
"through reform in the provincial gov-
ernment by the local representatives."
Surely here is the foundation for a
great work for the regeneration of his
people.

San Francisco Chronicle.

Russia is a country governed nomi-
nally by one man, really by a small
council of ministers with great powers
responsible to the czar and acting in
his name. The functions of govern-
ment are carried on by "administrative
process" to a degree unknown in any
other country pretending to civilization.
In judging Russia in this respect it is
only fair to remember that in no other
way could that country be governed at
all. The one thing which has kept it
one country and extended its jurisdic-
tion over areas so enormous and popu-
lation so widely differing is the auto-
cratic authority of the czar sustained
by an army devoted to his will. Never-
theless, civilization is reaching out to
enforce this people. With the spread
of education inevitably comes the de-
sire of participation in government, and
it is just to note that the aspirations of
the educated few move much faster
than the self-governing capacity of the
uneducated masses.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The imperial ukase providing for im-
portant reforms in the domestic policy
of Russia is undoubtedly an outcome of
the agitation which has been going on
for some time, and which has extended
to nearly all classes, although not with
a common interest. There is to be free-
dom of religion throughout the Russian
empire. This is in response to the
teachings of reformers like Tolstoi and
to the protests of the universities
against the shackles placed on free
thought and free speech. There is also
to be a more liberal provision for local
self-government than now exists, and
reforms which have been urged by vil-
lage communities are to be considered
and granted where found to be practi-
cable.

Kansas City Star.

But Russia has been retarded, never-
theless, by its lack of political and
religious freedom, and the step taken by
Czar Nicholas will mark this young
ruler once more as a singularly pro-
gressive monarch. The details of his
proclamation will be awaited with much
interest by the whole civilized world.

New York Herald.

In putting these reforms into opera-
tion the young ruler—he is not yet 25—
must overcome the inertia of a vast ar-
chaic, bureaucratic machine, but
there is a note of warning to all
obstructionists in his statement that
he has "irrevocably decided to satisfy
the needs for which the state has be-
come ripe." The importance of this de-
cision not only to Russia but to hu-
manity is apparent when one reflects
that the empire covers one-sixth of the
entire terrestrial surface of the globe,
with a population of 140 millions, which
is increasing at the rate of one and a
half millions a year and has almost un-
limited room for expansion. Peace, in-
dustrial liberty and the prosperity of
the people are the ends at which the
empire aims.

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